



REMEMBERING D-DAY

Special section
commemorates
75th anniversary
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Pentagon to White House: Stop politicizing military

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The Pentagon has told the White House to stop politicizing the military amid a furor over a Trump administration order to have the Navy ship that bears the name of the late U.S. Sen. John McCain hidden from view during President Donald Trump's recent visit to Japan.

A U.S. defense official said Patrick Shanahan, Trump's acting defense

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chief, also is considering sending out formal guidance to military units in order to avoid similar problems in the future.

Shanahan confirmed details about a Navy email that said the White House military office wanted the USS John McCain "out of sight" when Trump was in Japan about a week ago. The internal Navy email came to light last week, triggering a storm of outrage.

Trump, who long feuded with McCain, has said he knew nothing about

the request, but added that "somebody did it because they thought I didn't like him. OK? And they were well-meaning, I will say."

Shanahan told reporters traveling with him to South Korea on Sunday that he is not planning to seek an investigation by the Pentagon's internal watchdog into the matter "because there was nothing carried out" by the Navy. He added that he still needs to gather more information about exactly what happened and what servicemembers did.

"How did the people receiving the information — how did they treat it," Shanahan said. "That would give me an understanding on the next steps to take."

Shanahan did not detail what those steps could be, but a defense official said Shanahan is considering a clearer directive to the military about avoiding political situations. The goal would be to ensure there is less ambiguity about how the military

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Mixed emotions

D-Day ceremony spotlights president's complicated relationship with military

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

World leaders will gather in solemn assembly this week above the sandy beaches of Normandy to mark the 75th anniversary of the world-changing D-Day invasion of France. It's typically a heartfelt tribute to alliance and sacrifice and a unified vow for enduring unity, outweighing any national or political skirmish of the moment.

That's what has some U.S. veterans and others worried about President Donald Trump's attendance. The president has shown a repeated willingness to inject nationalistic rhetoric and political partisanship into moments once aimed at unity. For Trump, there is no water's edge for politics, no veneer of nonpartisanship around military or national security matters.

The president, who did not serve in the military before becoming

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President Donald Trump stands among the headstones during an American Commemoration Ceremony at Suresnes American Cemetery near Paris on Nov. 11, 2018.

JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP



PACIFIC

USS Blue Ridge back home after 4 months

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Blue Ridge recently dropped anchor back in its homeport in Japan after 114 days spent visiting 11 ports in nine Indo-Pacific nations.

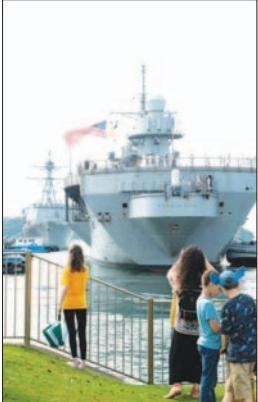
The 7th Fleet flagship — the Navy's oldest operational ship — left Yokosuka on Feb. 4 and since then has covered more than 22,000 nautical miles to make port calls in Otaru and Sasebo, Japan; Hong Kong; Singapore; Busan, South Korea; Manila, Philippines; Kota Kinabalu and Langkawi, Malaysia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Thailand; and Guam, according to a Navy statement Wednesday.

While at sea, the embarked 7th Fleet command staff conducted several exercises around the Indo-Pacific. Just before returning to Yokosuka, the Blue Ridge took part in Pacific Vanguard, a new multilateral exercise with the United States, Japan, Australia and South Korean navies.

"Blue Ridge provides a unique platform from which we conduct the important business of ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific," Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, 7th Fleet commander, said in the statement. "We've made great progress on our priorities in this region thanks to the tireless effort and professional expertise of everyone on the flagship during its time at sea."

With each port visit, the Blue Ridge was the hub for professional exchanges among regional navies, hosting more than 30 senior leader engagements, maritime cooperative activities with the Philippines and staff talks in Thailand, according to the statement.

A seagoing communications hub carrying computers, communications equipment and other electronic facilities, the



AARON CHASE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Family of sailors assigned to the USS Blue Ridge wait as the ship returns to its homeport in Japan on Wednesday.

Blue Ridge is the command ship for the 7th Fleet and an amphibious task force, as well as other missions. It has accommodations for 250 officers and 1,300 enlisted crew members.

The Blue Ridge also participated in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, a biennial maritime and aerospace exhibition in Malaysia. The



MAN'QUEON A.D. TRAMBLE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

USS Blue Ridge Command Master Chief James Grant kisses his wife at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Wednesday after a four-month patrol aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet flagship.

port visit concluded with a pass in review conducted by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad, the statement added.

During the ship's deployment, the Blue Ridge also joined multinational patrols to enforce international sanctions imposed on North Korea by looking for illicit ship-to-ship transfers in the East China Sea.

Over the course of the nearly four-month deployment, servicemembers aboard the flagship worked with the local communities of each country to complete 10,000 hours of community service during 26 community outreach events at orphanag-

es, schools, homes for the elderly and civic centers, according to the statement.

"Our team's efforts to accomplish its mission have been amazing," Capt. Eric Anduze, Blue Ridge commander, said in the statement. "Our engagements have been spot on, and this has been a wonderful experience for all of our Sailors to participate in a lifetime's worth achievements."

The steam-powered ship returned to sea in October for short trips after two years of maintenance, upgrades and repairs costing more than \$60 million.

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PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Sailors stand at the rails of the USS Chung-Hoon as it arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Friday after a seven-month deployment.

Back home

USS Chung-Hoon returns to Hawaii after 7-month deployment

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The destroyer USS Chung-Hoon, named for a Hawaiian admiral who displayed extraordinary heroism in World War II, returned to port in Pearl Harbor on Friday after a seven-month deployment that covered 54,000 nautical miles and included a freedom of navigation operation in the South China Sea.

Hundreds of family members, friends and shipmates crowded the pier as the ship arrived mid-morning. Among them was Michelle Punama Chung-Hoon, niece of the ship's namesake and the sponsor who christened the vessel in 2003, who rarely misses attending the destroyer's departures and returns.

The deployment took the Chung-Hoon — as part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group — to the areas of operations of the U.S. 5th, 6th and 7th fleets. The ship, which deployed Nov. 1, included a detachment from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37.

"I think some of the biggest accomplishments we had were the drug seizures," said Cmdr. Brent

Jackson from the ship's deck shortly after arriving. "We had drug seizures totaling \$5 million."

"We also escorted many high-value units — both foreign and U.S. national and ally — through chokepoints that aren't particularly friendly to the United States," he said.

Chung-Hoon transited Bab el-Mandeb Strait between Yemen and Djibouti 14 times and the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf four times.

Last month, it joined the USS Preble for a freedom of navigation operation near the contested Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The ships sailed within 12 nautical miles of Gaven and Johnson reefs, which have been occupied and militarized by Beijing.

Gordon Chung-Hoon, born in Honolulu in 1910, commanded the destroyer USS Sigsbee from May 1944 to October 1945.

He was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star for, among other things, keeping the Sigsbee's anti-aircraft batteries firing after a devastating kamikaze attack that killed 23 crewmen and almost sank the ship on April 14, 1945, off the coast of Okinawa.

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Petty Officer 1st Class David Andrews hugs his 3-month-old daughter, Bailey, for the first time Friday. She was born while his ship, the USS Chung-Hoon, was on a seven-month deployment.



A sailor from the USS Chung-Hoon gets a long embrace minutes after his arrival.



Jessica Meekins welcomes her son, Jamal Meekins.



Remington the dog waits on a pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the arrival of his owner.

MILITARY

2nd Fleet returns to face growing military challenges

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Va. — Lurking beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean is a threat that has not been the focus for national security strategists in the United States since the end of the Cold War: Russian submarines.

The vessels are quiet, hard to detect and an asset in which the Russian military has continued to invest. During the last several years, Russia has sent submarines farther into the North Atlantic and Mediterranean and Black seas. They are a growing concern for the United States as Russia attempts to stretch its power and influence around the world.

The U.S. Navy's answer to the increased maritime competition with Russia is the reestablishment of its 2nd Fleet, which declared initial operational capability last week, meaning it can start commanding and controlling forces in the Atlantic Ocean.

The U.S. military has pivoted in the last two years from focusing on counterterrorism to what the Pentagon calls "great-power competition" with several nations. The biggest challengers to the United States are the Russians and Chinese. With Russia's increasingly aggressive posturing, the feeling in the U.S. military has been to meet this new challenge with a mindset similar to its Cold War stance when the two nations went head to head around the world.

The return of the 2nd Fleet marks the Atlantic Ocean as an operational area instead of just an area of transit for ships.

"That is, that there may be real world, peace time and wartime operations going on there. And that tracks to the revival of Russian military activity in the Atlantic," said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"You know, they're sending submarines over again. You can see that they are reasserting military power again. So the Navy felt that it needed to recreate this fleet in order to be able to respond operationally."

Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, 2nd Fleet commander, told an audience at a CSIS event in November that "the Russian undersea threat is real and they are very competent and very operationally capable," adding that a U.S. submarine group had also been reestablished on the East Coast and he is working in coordination with the commander on the anti-submarine warfare mission.

Fall, rise of 2nd Fleet

Why the 2nd Fleet was shut down in 2011 and then had to be brought back seven years later is a story very familiar to the military: downsizing and changing priorities.

Former President Barack Obama's administration was pivoting to the Pacific Ocean as it was pulling forces out of Europe and drawing down forces in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Cancian said.

"Well if you're going to do that, then of course the Atlantic becomes much less important," he said.

That drop in importance also affected its standing when former Defense Secretary Robert Gates wanted to cut Pentagon overhead costs, so the military looked to reduce its number of headquarters, according to Cancian. The Atlantic was a major focus of anti-submarine warfare during the Cold War, but that threat had been diminishing, so the 2nd Fleet was disbanded, with its personnel, responsibilities and assets moved under U.S. Fleet Forces, according to a Navy news release at the time.

But in early 2014, Russia invaded Crimea and started a war in eastern Ukraine. Europe once again became an area of heightened concern for the United States and its NATO allies as Russia looked to reassert itself in Eastern Europe.

"So the thinking in the Obama administration about Russia changes at that point," Cancian said. "Previously, Russia had been seen as, you know, sort of partly adversary, partly partner, depending on the issue. And after 2014 it was clear that the Russians were going to be very aggressive and they were not going to be partners."

More so, by 2018, the counter-terrorism strategy of the past 15 years was surpassed by the growing concern over Russian resurgence as well as China's desires to unseat the United States as the preeminent power in the Indo-Pacific. The Pentagon under President Donald Trump's administration, led by then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, drew up the National Defense Strategy that put Russia and China front and center of the military's renewed focus on



Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, 2nd Fleet commander, speaks aboard the USS Bataan at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on April 26. The reestablished fleet declared initial operational capability last week.

great-power competition.

Last August, the Navy held a reestablishment ceremony to bring back the 2nd Fleet officially to meet the needs of defending the Atlantic Ocean as far north as the Arctic. It was also tasked to develop concepts that test the Navy's warfighting abilities in various scenarios and conditions.

The 2nd Fleet is again based at Naval Station Norfolk on the coast of Virginia, considered the largest U.S. naval base.

Lewis said during a recent visit by reporters to the Norfolk base that the fleet has been designed to be "lean, agile and expeditionary."

The fleet's staff of officers and sailors will stay relatively small, currently at about 100, and will likely double as it reaches full operational capability in December, according to Lt. Marycaye Walsh, a 2nd Fleet spokeswoman.

"But the ultimate size of the staff will be a number that is fit for its purpose and fit for its time," she added.

Unlike other fleet commands, the 2nd Fleet will not be constrained to a specific geographic area, operating missions in the Atlantic Ocean and up to the Arctic and reporting to either U.S. Naval Forces North or U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

The commands of NAVNORTH and NAVEUR divide the Atlantic Ocean along an imaginary line from the southern tip of Greenland down to about the Caribbean Sea. But the 2nd Fleet will be able to conduct a change of operational control, shifting the control of a ship between NAVNORTH and NAVEUR based on mission requirements and not geography, according to the Navy.

NATO and the Arctic

Lewis is also commander of Joint Force Command Norfolk, which is a command in NATO. The partnership between the 2nd Fleet and NATO is important to its mission, especially because it will operate alongside these allies in the northern Atlantic.

With the 2nd Fleet marking its initial operating capability, the fleet's command will now travel to the Baltic Sea region to lead the 47th annual Baltic Operations exercise, known as BALTOPS.

The maritime exercise will train participants from 18 nations, strengthening the partnerships through learning how to work together, according to a Navy statement in April.

The BALTOPS exercise, which has been designed to train on responding to a peer-warrior competitor, will demonstrate the 2nd Fleet's expeditionary capability by relocating "out onto a command ship in the Baltic in order to command and control that exercise," said Cmdr. Shaun Servaes, the deputy of plans and policy at 2nd Fleet and the lead BALTOPS planner.

The fleet also will focus on the Arctic, an area that is becoming a greater strategic concern as more ice is melting, opening more routes to travel through the region. The Arctic has energy and mineral resources, according to a story by the BBC. The Russians have increased their presence in the region by establishing military bases and operating a large icebreaker fleet, according to Cancian.

That has raised concerns in the U.S. government with keeping those trade routes open to all but

also the need to have an American presence, such as the 2nd Fleet, in the Arctic "to maintain freedom of the seas, freedom of navigation within international norms," Lewis said.

The Arctic is a "very complex situation," with the ice moving and fisheries, he said.

"We have to be able to deliberately have a capability to operate there. So as really to maintain a peaceful existence of the Arctic, because the Russians are very clear about their intent to use the Arctic and to some degree militarize it," Lewis said.

Challenges ahead

Even as the Navy embraces the 2nd Fleet's new position among the other commands, Cancian believes the fleet is going to face a challenge getting ships, including for training and exercises.

"Navy ships are limited and there are a lot of claimants. And there will always be demands to send ships to the Middle East like right now," he said. "A lot of demands to send them off to Europe to face the Russians. Of course, then there's the Pacific with the Chinese. So there are way more demands than the Navy can meet."

In early May, the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group expedited its transit from the 6th Fleet's area to the 5th Fleet's area in the Middle East as the Trump administration pointed to credible threats by Iran and its proxies against Americans and U.S. interests. Iran is mentioned in the 2018 National Defense Strategy as a rogue regime.

"I would emphasize that 2nd Fleet is going to be challenged to make a place [for] itself and it's going to have to show its value. It was disestablished once; it could be disestablished again," Cancian said. "So I think that they will feel some pressure to show that they're adding value."

I would emphasize that 2nd Fleet is going to be challenged to make a place [for] itself and it's going to have to show its value. It was disestablished once; it could be disestablished again.

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PACIFIC

Navy wraps up Pacific Partnership in Thailand

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

Three months and seven countries after setting out from Guam, the USNS Fall River recently arrived in Singapore, marking the conclusion of this year's Pacific Partnership after its final stop in Thailand.

This year's largest annual, multilateral disaster response and preparedness mission in the Indo-Pacific region featured two expeditionary fast transport ships for the first time, the Fall River and USNS Brunswick.

Personnel attached to both ships made stops in Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, according to a Navy statement Tuesday.

Unlike past Pacific Partnerships that primarily focused on providing direct medical care during each country visited through the hospital ship USNS Mercy, the mission has evolved to focus on bolstering relations with nations around the Pacific by providing assistance in disaster-relief preparedness, according to the statement.

"Pacific Partnership worked to strengthen ties and build national capabilities and preparedness for disaster emergencies," U.K. Royal Navy Capt. Paddy Allen, Pacific Partnership 2019 director of mission, said in the statement. "It is a unifying mission that fosters enduring friendships and cooperation among many nations."

Over the course of the three-month mission Pacific Partnership personnel conducted more than 60 humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness expert exchanges through workshops, symposiums and exercises, the statement added.

While in Malaysia, one of the numerous drills simulated a response to local flooding, a common natural disaster in the country.

"Different countries have distinctive experiences with natural disasters, which bring a variety of capabilities," U.S. Navy Capt. Randy Van Rossum, Pacific Partnership 2019 mission commander, said in the statement. "Being able to contribute diverse experiences,



WILLIAM BERNSTEIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Members of the Thai Royal Armed Forces assist Petty Officer 3rd Class Sandra Alvarez, assigned to Pacific Partnership 2019, with her protective gear during a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief demonstration in Chachoengsao province, Thailand, on May 23.

in something as unpredictable as a natural disaster, adds increased understanding and cooperation."

Alongside the scenario-based exercises, more than 200 medical experts took part in exchanges with host nation counterparts to improve interaction with the U.S. and host nations and enhance response in the event of a disaster.

U.S. military engineers worked shoulder-to-shoulder to complete 21 civic action projects with host nation volunteers throughout the Pacific, including adding functional shelters to schools in case of future catastrophes.

"One thing we all know throughout the whole region: Disasters don't recognize country boundaries," Navy Rear Adm. Joey Tynch, Task Force 73 commander, said in the statement.



CHRISTOPHER VELICAZA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USNS Fall River arrives at Sembawang Wharves in Singapore following its final Pacific Partnership mission stop in Thailand on Tuesday.

"It's good for all of us to work together on these things and always be prepared because it's not a question of if, but when we need

each other. And when we need each other, it's so nice to be on the radio or pick up the phone and hear a voice you recognize, and that's what Pacific Partnership is all about."

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MILITARY

China vows to protect Taiwan, sea interests

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SINGAPORE — China's defense minister on Sunday denounced U.S. military operations in the South China Sea and support for Taiwan, warning that Beijing will "resolutely take action" to protect its interests.

Gen. Wei Fenghe, however, insisted that the China-U.S. relationship has been growing "despite all the ups and downs."

In a speech that was both challenging and cooperative, he said China is ready to fight the United States on land but the door remains open for talks, throwing the ball into Washington's court.

"As for the recent trade friction started by the U.S., if the U.S. wants to talk we will keep the door open," he said during a wide-ranging speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a major security conference in Singapore.

The U.S.-China trade war escalated last month after President Donald Trump slapped new tariffs on Beijing after accusing it

of renegeing on commitments in negotiations.

That has raised fears of a growing rivalry between the countries at a critical time since the U.S. needs China's help on persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons.

China, which is the North's main ally and economic lifeline, is committed to the denuclearization, peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, Wei said.

"We hope that the U.S. and [North Korea] will accommodate each other's concerns with cool heads and patience, work towards the same goal and resume the dialogue for peace at an early date," he said.

Wei was responding directly to comments made the day before by acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan at the same podium.

Shanahan criticized what he called China's efforts to militarize the South China Sea and to steal technology from other countries, calling them part of "a toolkit of coercion" that threatens to

destabilize the region.

China claims much of the contested waterway as its own despite protests from smaller countries in the region and has engaged in a massive construction program including outposts equipped with airstrips, radar and missile stations.

Wei, the most senior Chinese delegate to address the annual conference in Singapore, tried to turn the tables by accusing the U.S. of stoking tensions by sending warships and aircraft to the area in so-called freedom of navigation operations.

"Building facilities on one's own territory is not militarization," he said. "We are deploying the facilities because we feel the threat.

"Some countries have blatantly showed muscles in this region. How can we respond to that? Can we use handguns?" he added, in a thinly veiled reference to U.S. operations in the area.

He also warned the U.S. against supporting the self-governing is-



LISA FERDINANDO/Courtesy of the Department of Defense

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe said Beijing would take military action to protect its interests in Taiwan and the South China Sea.

land of Taiwan. On Saturday, Shanahan stressed the U.S. provision of defense articles and services to Taiwan, saying the support "empowers the people of Taiwan to determine their own future."

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory even though it split from the mainland during a civil war seven decades ago. Beijing seeks peaceful reunification with Taiwan but will not rule out the use of force, Wei said.

"No attempts to split China will succeed," he said. "Any foreign interference in the Taiwan issue is doomed to failure."

"We will strive for the prospects of peaceful reunification

with utmost sincerity and greatest efforts, but we make no promise to renounce the use of force," he added.

The tit-for-tat speeches reflected the increasingly troubled relationship between two countries that are vying for influence in the region.

Wei said the Chinese army doesn't want to cause trouble for anybody but will protect its interests.

"Should anybody risk crossing the bottom line, [the People's Liberation Army] will resolutely take action and defeat all enemies," Wei said.

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Shanahan: Major S. Korea drills remain on hold

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said Sunday that so far he sees no need to restore large-scale military exercises with South Korea that have been curtailed over the past year as a diplomatic olive branch to North Korea.

"I'm confident that we have the readiness that we are required to have," Shanahan said as he flew to Seoul to meet with his commanders and South Korean officials. But he also said he wants to discuss the issue with his top American commander in South Korea, Army Gen. Robert Abrams, to "make sure that the plan that we put in place is sufficient."

Shanahan's visit to Seoul comes as the U.S. and partners in the region weigh how to respond to missile tests conducted last month by North Korea. The tests fuel debate over whether the elimination of drills may impair the U.S. and South Korea's ability to respond if the North is once again turning away from diplomatic and moving to heightened hostilities.

Several U.S. officials, including Shanahan, have said that the North Korean test launches of what they believe were short-range ballistic missiles were a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The North has defended the launches as efforts to exercise its right to self-defense.

South Korea and the U.S. last year eliminated larger military drills and said they would replace them with smaller exercises. The North has viewed the large drills as an invasion rehearsal. In place of the bigger exercises, the U.S. and South Korea have been conducting newly designed command post drills and revised field training programs.

The decision to dump the bigger drills came last June after President Donald Trump's first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump abruptly announced the decision, saying that he



Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, left, speaks with South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo, center, in Singapore on Saturday.

disapproved of what he called U.S. "war games" in South Korea. He called the maneuvers provocative and expensive.

At the time, military leaders defended the move as a way to support diplomacy aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis. Pentagon officials said they believed the shift to smaller exercises would not harm military readiness, but that the decision would be periodically reevaluated.

Some experts say it will likely weaken the allies' military readiness and hurt the ability of the U.S. and South Korean troops to work seamlessly together in the event of an attack or other emergency.

On Saturday in Singapore, Shanahan told the Shangri-La Dialogue security conference that Pyongyang has "nearly a point where it could credibly strike regional allies, U.S. territory and our forward-deployed forces."

Heightened tensions with the North in 2017 were followed by a surprising diplomatic outreach by Pyongyang in 2018, when Kim attended summits with the South Korean and Chinese presidents and with Trump. But North Korea has not received what it wants most from its summits: relief from punitive sanctions imposed over its nuclear and missile programs.

Politicizing: McCain incident dogs acting defense chief in Asia

FROM FRONT PAGE

should support VIP events and how servicemembers should respond to such political requests, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Shanahan also said that he spoke with McCain's wife, Cindy, a few days ago. He declined to provide many details.

The order to keep the Navy destroyer out of sight reflected what appeared to be an extraordinary White House effort to avoid offending an unpredictable president known for holding a grudge, including a particularly bitter one against McCain.

The McCain incident has dogged Shanahan throughout his weeklong trip to Asia, even as he tried to deal with critical national security issues involving the eroding U.S. relationship with China and the continuing threat from North Korea.

Shanahan, who has been serving in an acting capacity since the first of the year, has yet to be formally nominated by Trump as permanent defense chief. His speech to a major national security conference in Singapore on Saturday was a chance to audition for the job on the international stage.

A formal nomination has been expected, and Congress members have said they believe there will be a hearing on his nomination in the next month or so. The McCain

issue is sure to come up, but it's not clear how it may affect either his nomination or confirmation by the Senate. It may well depend on what steps he takes to respond to the matter in the coming days.

According to Shanahan spokesman Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, Shanahan told his chief of staff Friday to speak with the White House military office "and reaffirm his mandate that the department of defense will not be politicized." Buccino said the chief of staff reported back that he delivered the message.

Asked what he has learned about the incident so far, Shanahan said he was told that despite the White House request, the Navy did not move the ship and that a barge that was in front of it was moved before Trump arrived. He said that a tarp that had been draped over the ship's name was removed, but that it was put there for maintenance, not to obscure its identity.

What is still unclear, however, is who at the Pentagon may have known about the request and either agreed with it or chose not to do so.

It's also not clear whether Navy leaders deliberately chose the *McCain* crew as one of the ships to be on holiday leave during Trump's visit or if other measures were taken to ensure that the *McCain* was not visible from where the president stood when he arrived on the USS *Wasp* to make remarks.

MILITARY

Pompeo says US ready to talk with Iran

Associated Press

BELLINZONA, Switzerland — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday that the Trump administration is ready for unconditional discussions with Iran in an effort to ease rising tensions that have sparked fears of conflict.

But the United States will not relent in trying to pressure the Islamic Republic to change its behavior in the Middle East, America's top diplomat said.

Pompeo repeated long-standing U.S. accusations that Iran is bent on destabilizing the region, but he also held out the possibility of talks as President Donald Trump has suggested.

While the offer may not pan out, Pompeo made it during a visit to Switzerland, the country that has represented American interests in Iran, as part of a European trip aimed at assuring wary leaders that the U.S. is not eager for war.

"We're prepared to engage in a conversation with no preconditions," Pompeo told reporters at a news conference with his Swiss counterpart. "We're ready to sit down with them, but the American effort to fundamentally reverse the malign activity of this Islamic Republic, this revolutionary force, is going to continue."

Pompeo's meeting with Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis in the southern Swiss town of Bellinzona came amid concerns about the potential for escalation and miscalculation with Iran — a situation that has many in Europe and the Middle East on edge.

Cassis, whose country has been an intermediary between the two before, made no secret of that nervousness.

"The situation is very tense," he

said. "We are fully aware — both parties are fully aware — of this tension."

"Switzerland, of course, wishes there is no escalation, no escalation to violence," he said. "Both parties are now increasing the pressure, and for the rest this is a matter of worry, but we cannot do anything unless we get a mandate from both parties."

Cassis said Switzerland would be pleased to serve as an intermediary, but not a "mediator," between the United States and Iran. To do so, however, would require requests from both sides, he said.

Neither he nor Pompeo would say if such requests had been made of the Swiss.

Pompeo thanked Switzerland, which serves as the "protecting power" for the United States in Iran, for looking after Americans detained there.

Trump administration officials have suggested they would look positively at any move to release at least five American citizens and at least two permanent U.S. residents currently imprisoned in Iran. Pompeo declined to comment on whether he had made a specific request to the Swiss about the detainees. But, he said the release of unjustly jailed Americans in Iran and elsewhere is a U.S. priority.

Pompeo was in Switzerland on the second leg after Germany of a four-nation tour of Europe in which he is both trying to calm nerves and stressing that the U.S. will defend itself and not relent in raising pressure on Iran with economic sanctions.

Still, Trump has signaled a willingness to talk with Iran's leadership. Iranian officials have hinted at the possibility but also insisted they will not be bullied.



BRIAN M. WILBUR, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress conduct joint exercises in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in the Arabian Sea on Saturday.

Edelweiss Resort restores eligibility to outside Europe

By MARTIN EGHNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Beginning Monday, the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort will again begin allowing Defense Department ID cardholders from outside Europe to use its facilities to explore the Alps.

The Armed Forces Recreation Center in Garmisch, Germany, located near the southern border with Austria, recently received approval from U.S. Army Europe and Germany to open up eligibility to servicemembers, DOD civilians, retirees and family members living outside Europe on a space-available basis.

Eligibility restrictions that limited visitors from outside Europe had been in place at the resort since June 2015.

"We're elated to once again be able to provide memorable vacation experiences to all servicemembers and retirees, not

just those living in Europe," said Brian Borda, Edelweiss general manager.

The change was brought on by an outcry of servicemembers and veterans stateside who wanted to stay at the lodge, Edelweiss spokesman Brad Hays said.

"I hope anybody stationed in Europe, the U.S., or anywhere will be able to come here and have the vacation of a lifetime," Hays said.

Guests from outside Europe are encouraged to make reservations well in advance to ensure availability, the Army said.

Edelweiss is one of four armed forces resorts around the world. The others are the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki, Shades of Green inside the Walt Disney World Resort and the Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, South Korea.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany.

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US bomber, carrier hold exercise in Arabian Sea

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military says a B-52 bomber and an aircraft carrier dispatched to the Mideast over a perceived threat from Iran have conducted a joint exercise together in the Arabian Sea.

The Air Force said in a statement Sunday that the exercise saw F/A-18 Super Hornets, MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters and E-2D Growlers from the USS Abraham Lincoln fly with the B-52 bomber.

The Air Force says the aircraft also "simulated strike operations" in the exercise, which took place on Saturday.

The White House dispatched the Lincoln and its strike force to the Mideast in May over an Iranian threat it did not describe at the time.

The U.S. pulled out of Iran's nuclear deal a year ago. Since then, relations have grown tense as America imposes ever-tougher sanctions on Tehran.

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MILITARY

Complicated: Trump's relationship with military has been fraught at times

FROM FRONT PAGE

commander in chief, has feuded with Gold Star families, blasted political opponents on foreign soil, and mocked Sen. John McCain, a prisoner of war, for being captured by the enemy. Trump's antipathy for the late senator was so well known that the White House requested that the Navy keep the USS John McCain out of the president's line of sight during a recent trip to Japan so as not to risk the president.

It's a pattern that is set to get more scrutiny in coming days, as Trump heads overseas for the D-Day memorial where he will be joined at the service by, among others, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat whom he has called "crazy Nancy" and warned not to try to impeach him.

"It's unfortunate we have to be even concerned that this historic commemoration will be overly politicized, but this is the command climate he's created and the reality we have," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder and former head of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and now host of the podcast, "Angry Americans." "We have to send our president. You go with the president you've got, and this is the president we've got. So we're rightfully holding our breath for an event like this."

More than 9,000 Americans are buried in the cemeteries dedicated to the D-Day operation that marked a turning point in World War II, beginning the Allied push to drive the Nazis out of France and eventually Europe. On a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, rows of white crosses and the Stars of David stretch as far as the eye can see — markers of sacrifice.

The president missed the other

significant military commemoration of his term.

In November, also in France, Trump scuttled plans to honor the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. The White House said the president's helicopter could not make it to the site because of bad weather. It did not explain why Trump could not make the 50-mile drive. His absence set off howls from many veterans.

Trump blamed the Secret Service and the next day went to a different cemetery outside Paris.

In recent days, he visited Arlington National Cemetery and spent Memorial Day on a naval ship in Japan.

"You are the ones keep going and striving, and keeping America safe, and strong, and proud, and free," Trump said during the visit. He also wished everyone a "Happy Memorial Day," a greeting some find off-key for a holiday dedicated to honoring dead servicemembers.

Ahead of the trip, the White House told the U.S. Navy to keep the warship rededicated in honor of McCain out of sight of the president. The president denied knowing about the request but said the gesture was "well-meaning" because he was no fan of McCain, a prisoner of war whom Trump once mocked by saying he preferred soldiers who "weren't captured."

Trump also sided with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un over criticism of former Vice President Joe Biden.

Some veteran groups were pleased that Trump was attending the D-Day commemoration but urged him to leave the politi-



FRANCOIS MORI/AP

From left, first lady Melania Trump, President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron attend ceremonies at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on Nov. 11, 2018. Trump and Macron will this week honor the dwindling number of veterans of the D-Day landing

cal broadsides at home.

"In situations like these, it's best for President Trump to focus on his positive vision for reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs and advocating for a more restrained foreign policy," said Dan Caldwell, a senior adviser for the conservative Concerned Veterans for America.

Plenty of previous presidents have embraced the military, identifying themselves with its power and patriotism. But Trump's relationship with the armed forces — and the families of individual soldiers — has at times been uniquely fraught.

As a candidate, he feuded with the parents of Capt. Humayun Khan, who was killed in Iraq, and as president clashed with the mother of Sgt. La David Johnson, who died in Niger. Though Trump has been a boisterous cheerleader for the Pentagon, he is part of a recent trend of commanders-in-chief who did not serve in the military. He received the deferment that allowed him to not serve in Vietnam War due to bone spurs, but has been unable to remember in which foot, leading to accusations of draft dodging, including last week from 2020 rivals.

"You have somebody who thinks it's all right to let somebody go in his place into a deadly war and is willing to pretend to be disabled in order to do it," said Democrat Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Ind., who served as a Navy intelligence officer in Afghanistan. "That is an assault on the honor of this country."

And while a number of veterans groups have applauded Trump's efforts to improve mental and physical health care to former officers, many of those same organizations sharply criticized Trump's recent consideration to pardon several American military members accused of war crimes, in-

cluding headline-grabbing cases of shooting unarmed civilians and killing an enemy captive.

"It is mind-blowing that these are the persons this administration is considering for pardons," said Kristoffer Goldsmith, an associate director for policy at Vietnam Veterans of America, one of several veterans' groups that oppose the pardons.

Trump considered issuing the pardons for Memorial Day but later said he may wait for some trials to conclude.

But his international trips have repeatedly been interrupted by distractions back home, and many around him fear that even a solemn World War II observance may not be enough to prevent the president from tweeting an attack on special counsel Robert Mueller or escalating tensions with his hosts, outgoing British Prime Minister Theresa May or French President Emmanuel Macron.



DAVID VINCENT/AP

Headstones at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, in Colleville sur Mer, western France, are seen in a June 6, 2018, photo. The world will turn its eyes to the beaches of France to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day.

WAR ON TERRORISM

3 Afghanistan bombings kill at least 2, injure 24

BY RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three explosions struck the Afghan capital on Sunday, killing at least two people and injuring 24 others, officials said. At least two Afghan journalists were also injured in the blasts, according to a local nongovernmental media organization.

The first bomb was attached to a bus carrying university students. It was followed 20 minutes later by two roadside bombs in the same area, said Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the Public Health Ministry, said 24 other people, including four women, were injured in the attacks.

At least one other person was killed by the first blast, while the second died in the hospital. Mayar said it was not immediately clear which explosion they had been injured by.

Seven people were wounded by the two roadside bombs after they arrived at the scene, located in a

residential area of western Kabul, including five members of the security forces, Rahimi said.

Also wounded in Sunday's attacks were at least two Afghan journalists, Ahmad Javed Kargar and Mohammad Fasih Mutawakil, according to Nai, a media organization that supports open media in Afghanistan.

Kargar, a photographer for the European Pressphoto Agency, confirmed he was injured by a secondary explosion in a video he posted to social media while being taken to the hospital. The news photography agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nai said the second journalist had been lightly wounded. Islamic State claimed responsibility for Sunday's attacks in Kabul.

In a statement, the group said it set off an improvised explosive device on a bus allegedly transporting minority Shiite Muslims, and after security forces and journalists had gathered at the site, it detonated two additional explosives there.

Taliban and ISIS militants are



RAMAT GUL/AP

Afghan Security Police arrive at the site of explosions in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. Afghan officials said there were three explosions in the capital, including a bomb attached to a bus carrying university students.

active in the capital and have staged attacks in Kabul.

In April 2018, nine journalists were killed and half a dozen wounded in a double suicide bombing in Afghanistan's capital. In that attack, it appeared the journalists were intentionally targeted by a bomber who hid among members of the media rushing to cover the first explosion. ISIS claimed responsibility for the bombings, but didn't say

that journalists were specifically targeted.

In a separate attack late Saturday night in eastern Ghazni province, a Taliban suicide bomber was able to enter a police compound using a stolen Humvee packed with explosives. The blast killed at least 10 police reserve unit personnel and wounded eight others, said Nasir Ahmad Faqri, head of Ghazni's provincial council.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah

Mujahid took responsibility for the attack in Ghazni.

In western Farah province, at least six members of the border security forces were killed Saturday night in an attack on their checkpoint by Taliban insurgents. Abdul Samed Salehi, a provincial council member, said eight other members of the security forces were wounded.

The Taliban offered no comment on the attack in Farah.

Iraqi court sentences 2 French ISIS members to death

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A court in Baghdad on Sunday sentenced two French citizens to death for being members of Islamic State, including one who last week said he was subjected to torture while in detention, an Iraqi judicial official said.

The sentences in Iraq come amid controversy about the legal treatment of thousands of foreign fighters who had joined ISIS at the height of its power in Syria and Iraq, when the militant group declared its self-styled caliphate.

Human rights groups are con-

cerned these defendants are being rushed through Iraqi counterterrorism courts in trials that raise questions over whether justice is being done. Convictions are often based on confessions that defendants and rights groups say are extracted by intimidation, torture and abuse and without due process.

The judicial official said the court sentenced to death Fadil Hamad Abdallah, 33, of Moroccan origin, and Vianney Jamal Abdalqader, 29.

Abdallah, who was known within the group as Abu Mariam, told the court last week that he was subjected to torture. He was then

referred to a medical committee that, after examining him, said he had made false claims about torture.

The judicial official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The new sentences raise the number of French citizens given death sentences over the past two weeks to nine.

France has said it would do all it can to spare the group from execution in Iraq. Although it has made no effort to bring back the captured fighters, France has taken an outspoken stance against the death penalty worldwide.

Although European ISIS members have been sentenced to death, none has actually been executed in Iraq.

Those sentenced are among a group of 12 French citizens who were detained by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces in neighboring Syria and handed over to Iraq in January.

The Kurdish-led group spearheaded the fight against ISIS in Syria and has handed hundreds of suspected ISIS members over to Iraq in recent months.

An Iraqi intelligence official told The Associated Press that the SDF handed over to Syria 1,142 Iraqi ISIS members, of which

157 were sentenced to death. He added that five other foreigners were transferred to Iraq, including two Iranians, two Tunisians and a Chinese national. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Also in Baghdad, Iraqi authorities handed over 122 Turkish children of suspected ISIS militants to Turkey's government representatives, according to a statement by the Justice Ministry.

Sunday's handover came days after 188 other children were handed over to Turkish authorities.

Syria says Israeli attacks killed 3 soldiers and wounded 7

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Israel attacked Syrian military positions in the country's south early Sunday, killing three soldiers and wounding seven others, Syria's state-run media reported.

State news agency SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying the attacks struck military positions in the southern region of Quneitra, near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. They also caused material damage, it said.

An Israeli military spokesman confirmed on Twitter that Israel targeted several military positions in Syria. He said the targets included two artillery batteries, several observation and intelligence posts and an SA 2 air defense unit.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said Israeli warplanes struck positions and an arms depot of Iranian troops and their Hezbollah fighters.

The attacks came hours after the Israeli

military said two projectiles were fired from Syria toward the Golan Heights.

The Israeli military said Saturday there were no reports of casualties or damage. Israeli media said that sirens warning of incoming rockets were not activated.

Israel has acknowledged carrying out dozens of airstrikes in Syria on Iranian targets and Tehran's allies.

Last week, Israeli aircraft hit a Syrian military post after the army said an anti-aircraft missile was fired at one

of its fighter jets. Syrian media said a soldier was killed in that airstrike.

Israel says it will not allow Iran, which has sent forces to help President Bashar Assad in Syria's civil war, to establish a permanent military presence in Syria.

For years, Israel has remained largely silent about its attacks against Iran and its Shi'ite proxies operating in neighboring Syria. But in recent months, military and political leaders have become increasingly outspoken about those activities.

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

NATION

Official: Virginia Beach gunman had just resigned

BY BEN FINLEY
AND DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The gunman who opened fire inside a Virginia Beach government building, killing 12 people, resigned by email hours before the shooting, a city official said Sunday.

There was no immediate indication why the man, a civil engineer, had notified a superior of his intention to leave his job in two weeks.

The assailant was an employee "in good standing" in his department, said City Manager Dave Hansen, who described the man's performance as "satisfactory."

Authorities have identified the attacker as DeWayne Craddock. He was killed following a gunbattle with police.

Police Chief James Cervera said he had no information to indicate that the shooter targeted anyone specifically.

He described how officers who entered the building pursued the man through a tightly packed warren of offices and exchanged gunfire with him. He did not know how many rounds were fired but said it was "well into the double digits."

At one point, the suspect fired at officers through a door and a wall and hit one officer, who was saved by a bulletproof vest. Then the firing stopped, and police realized the gunman was holed up in an office.

When they got into the office, they took the wounded shooter into custody and gave him first

aid, Cervera said.

Among the dead were four other engineers who worked to maintain streets and protect wetlands and three right-of-way agents who reviewed property lines. Others included an account clerk, a technician, an administrative assistant and a special projects coordinator.

Joseph Scott, an engineering technician with the utilities department, said he had worked with Craddock and had a brief interaction with him Friday, passing him in the men's restroom about five minutes before the shooting.

"He was in there brushing his teeth, which he always did after he ate," Scott said. "I said 'Hey, how you doing? What are you doing this weekend?' It was just a brief conversation."

Scott said he left for the day right after and learned of the shooting when a co-worker and then his son called him asking if he was OK.

"I couldn't believe that it happened," he said.

One of the dead employees had worked for the city for 41 years. Six worked in the same department as the suspect, though authorities have declined to say if anyone was specifically targeted or if the suspect had issued threats before.

The victims were found throughout the building, on three floors, police said.

The municipal building was open to the public, but security passes were required to enter inner offices, conference rooms



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH/AP

These are the victims of Friday's shooting at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Va. Top row from left are LaQuita C. Brown, Ryan Keith Cox, Tara Welch Gallagher and Mary Louise Gayle. Middle row from left are Alexander Mikhail Gusev, Joshua O. Hardy, Michelle "Missy" Langer and Richard H. Nettleton. Bottom row from left are Katherine A. Nixon, Christopher Kelly Rapp, Herbert "Bert" Snelling and Robert "Bobby" Williams.

and other work areas. As a current employee, Craddock would have had the pass to enter the inner offices, Hansen said.

At least three other people who were wounded remained hospitalized Saturday.

Craddock appeared to have had no felony record, making him eligible to purchase guns.

All indications were that the shooter purchased the weapons legally, one in 2016 and one in 2018, said Ashan Benedict, the regional special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The police chief said at least one had a noise suppressor.

A handwritten note was posted Saturday at the suspect's home expressing condolences to the shooting victims on behalf of his

family.

Hundreds of people attended Saturday prayer vigils for the dead. Scott said he, his wife and several others prayed for the shooter too.

One of the dead, Christopher Kelly Rapp, of Powhatan, enjoyed Scottish music and joined a pipe band last fall. He played with the group in October during a Celtic festival in Virginia and marched with bandmates on St. Patrick's Day.

"Chris was reserved but very friendly, quietly engaging members one-on-one after our weekly practices," the band, Tidewater Pipes & Drums, said in a statement.

Another victim, Mary Louise Gayle, of Virginia Beach, was de-

scribed as a "super sweet lady" who always had a big smile.

"She would always be out there in the yard, working on something and talking to my daughters," John Cushman, Gayle's next-door neighbor, told The New York Times.

The other employees who were killed were identified as Tara Welch Gallagher, Alexander Mikhail Gusev, Katherine A. Nixon, Ryan Keith Cox, Joshua O. Hardy and Michelle "Missy" Langer, all of Virginia Beach; LaQuita C. Brown and Robert "Bobby" Williams, both of Chesapeake; and Richard H. Nettleton of Norfolk. The 12th victim, Herbert "Bert" Snelling of Virginia Beach, was a contractor who was at the building to seek a permit.

Did a 'silencer' make a difference in Virginia Beach shooting?

BY LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

The shooter who killed 12 people in a government office building in Virginia Beach used a firearm equipped with a suppressor that muffles the sound of gunfire. It's the nightmare scenario that gun control advocates have warned about amid efforts in recent years to ease restrictions on the devices, which they say can help shooters escape detection and inflict more carnage.

But gun rights advocates and most law enforcement experts say DeWayne Craddock's use of a suppressor likely had no bearing on his ability to kill so many people in so little time Friday.

Virginia is among 42 states that allow residents to purchase and possess suppressors, though some cities and towns — including Virginia Beach — prohibit them.

Known colloquially as a "silencer," a suppressor was attached to a .45-caliber handgun that police say the shooter used to kill a dozen people on three floors of the building where he worked before he



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Members of the FBI load equipment into a vehicle outside a municipal building that was the scene of a shooting on Saturday in Virginia Beach, Va.

closed in and, after a protracted gunbattle, fatally shot him.

That could at least partially explain why survivors of the attack said they were caught off guard and initially puzzled by what was happening. One described hearing something that sounded like a nail gun.

"This is the concern we were talking about when Republicans were trying to deregulate silencers as 'ear protection,'" said

David Chipman, a retired agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and now the senior policy adviser with Giffords, a gun control lobbying group. "Especially on a handgun, a suppressor will distort the sound in such a way that it would not immediately be recognizable as gunfire to people who sort of know what that sound is."

Others say the shooter's use of a suppressor was less of a factor in enabling him to carry out the rampage than was his familiarity with the building and even possibly his military background, both of which may have given him a tactical advantage.

"A suppressor does not alter the lethality of the weapon at all. All it does is just limit the noise it makes," said Gregory Shaffer, a retired FBI agent who was a member of the bureau's elite Hostage Response Team. "It doesn't increase the rate of fire. It doesn't do anything other than make it more comfortable to shoot because it's not so loud."

It's not immediately clear how long Friday's attack lasted or how much time passed before the first police officers ar-

rived. The police department is in the same complex as the building where the shooting took place.

It also wasn't yet known how Craddock got the suppressor he used on his handgun, though authorities have said he legally purchased multiple firearms recently.

Authorities have three days to conduct a background check when someone is buying a firearm. But suppressors are regulated by the National Firearms Act, which also governs the sale of machine guns, and the extensive background check can take upward of eight months or more before the sale can go through.

"Clearly this was an individual who did understand and have experience with firearms and had given potentially some forethought into the advantage that using a suppressor would offer him, particularly the suppressor coupled with the caliber of weapon he was using," said Thor Eells, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association and a retired law enforcement officer with the Colorado Springs Police Department.

NATION

Ark. flooding abates but danger still lurks

1 city is spared; some communities downriver at risk

By HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Officials from a small Arkansas city where a levee breached say the risk of widespread flooding has abated because the Arkansas River crested without inundating the city, though communities downriver aren't out of danger yet.

Dardanelle Mayor Jimmy Witt said in a Facebook post Saturday night that he thought the city of about 4,700 people "will be OK" after the flow of water toward the community began to slow.

The river on Friday made a 40-foot hole in a levee in Dardanelle, which is roughly 100 miles upstream from Little Rock.

Nearby rural communities were flooded, though some residents had already evacuated. Floodwaters turned a small community of about 25 people a few miles south of Dardanelle into a temporary island.

On Saturday, officials said they were constructing a temporary levee, calling it a "last ditch effort" to shore up the city's southern border and predicting that up to 80 homes could be affected by creeping floodwaters.

The threat decreased hours later as the flow of water through the busted levee slowed.

"The temporary levee is in place on the south end of town, and I believe it could really help," Witt wrote on Facebook. "I am confident in our preparation to this point."

By Sunday morning, Dardanelle appeared to be safe. Yell County Office of Emergency Management Director Jeff Gilkey said the river never reached the temporary levee.

Floodwaters have crested in Dardanelle and levels should begin slowly dropping soon, though both Witt and Gilkey warned that more rain could reverse the city's fortune.

National Weather Service meteorologist Dennis Cavanaugh said that possible rain in Oklahoma would likely prolong flooding along the Arkansas River, though it probably wouldn't raise water levels higher than where they crested. Most areas will see the threat of major flooding subside within a few weeks, although the river will likely stay very high through June, he said.

Arkansas is expected to get more rain later in the week, which would increase the likelihood of flash-flooding, Cavanaugh said.

"Normally, the waters would drain pretty quickly into the Arkansas River," he said, but with the river flooded, water will have nowhere to go.

Downriver communities were preparing Sunday for record-breaking crests. Officials ordered mandatory evacuations for about 500 homes that sit within the levee system in Jefferson County, just southwest of Little Rock.

The county's emergency management director, Karen Blevins, said the evacuation was precautionary and officials have no concerns about the levees.

In North Little Rock, which sits across the river from the capital city of Little Rock, officials went door-to-door Saturday to urge residents in about 150 homes near the river to consider leaving.

Flooding along the Arkansas River in



COURTESY OF DRONEBASE/AP

Flooded homes are shown along the Arkansas River in Sand Spring, Okla. President Donald Trump has declared a major disaster in the state.



MICHAEL WOODS/AP

The Arkansas River floods along Adams Street in Van Buren, Ark., on Thursday.



COURTESY OF THE YELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/AP

Water rushes through the levee along the Arkansas River in Dardanelle, Ark., on Friday. The city appears to have been spared from major flooding.

Oklahoma, meanwhile, continued to recede. The weather service said that in Tulsa, the river was at just over 13 feet Sunday morning, which was 10 feet lower than at its high point on Wednesday.

On Saturday, President Donald Trump declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and made federal funding available to Musk-

ogee, Tulsa and Wagoner counties, which have been hit by flooding, tornadoes and other storms.

Across the state, officials said six people died and 118 were injured from the spring

severe weather.

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke planned to tour flooded communities near Tulsa on Sunday to see the damage firsthand.

NATION



JEFF CHIU/AP

The crowd cheers after Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Cory Booker, of New Jersey, spoke during the 2019 California Democratic Party State Organizing Convention in San Francisco on Saturday. Joe Biden's absence at the gathering gave rivals a chance to take digs at the former vice president.

Rivals take digs in Biden's absence

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE
AND NICHOLAS RICCIARDI
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Democratic presidential hopefuls took rival Joe Biden's absence at a California state party gathering Saturday as a chance to take subtle digs at the former vice president and craft themselves as better positioned to bring Democrats into the future.

"Some say if we all just calm down, the Republicans will come to their senses," Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren said in a clear reference to Biden's comments that the GOP may have an "epiphany" after President Donald Trump is gone. "But our country is in a crisis. The time for small ideas is over."

Warren was one of 14 presidential contenders in San Francisco for a three-day gathering of the California Democratic Party, featuring thousands of fervent activists. Biden was the only big-name candidate to skip the gathering, opting instead to campaign in Ohio. That allowed Warren, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, California Sen. Kamala Harris and others a chance to grab the spotlight.

California has shifted its 2020 primary earlier on the calendar, to March 3, part of the Super Tuesday collection of contests, in hopes of giving the state more sway in choosing the party's nominee. California will offer the largest delegate haul, but it is a notoriously difficult state to campaign in, given its massive size and expensive media markets.

Biden, speaking to thousands of activists at the Human Rights Campaign's Ohio gala Saturday night in Columbus, didn't mention his rivals but blasted Trump and his record on LGBTQ issues. He indirectly answered the criticism that he thinks small by noting that the Democratic House recently passed the Equality Act, which would enshrine LGBTQ protections in U.S. civil rights law. Biden said that Democrats had the majority because they were able to win in moderate and Republican-leaning districts.

In San Francisco, Warren's remarks served as the most direct jab at Biden, but South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, 37, seemed to draw a contrast with the Biden, 76, when he said Democrats won't win if they bring more of the same to the 2020 contest.

"The riskiest thing we can do is play it safe," Buttigieg declared. "There's no going back to normal."

Warren and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker received perhaps the most enthusiastic response from the crowd, drawing people to their feet on multiple occasions. Warren reprised her "I've got a plan for that" slogan to raucous cheers as she pledged bold action on a variety of topics, including breaking up "big tech," a strong rebuke in the home of Silicon Valley.

"Some Democrats in Washington believe the only change we can get are tweaks and nudges — if they dream at all, they dream small," she said.

Booker was the only candidate to reference Friday's fatal shooting in Virginia Beach, Va., which left 12 people dead. Declaring he'd have plenty of time to talk about himself, he told the party that the election is about more than finding a "savior" and simply beating Trump.

"It can't be the call to beat Republicans. It must be the call to unite Americans in common cause and common purpose to tear down the injustices that still exist," he said.

Md. governor won't seek GOP nomination

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Maryland's Larry Hogan, the popular Republican governor in a liberal-leaning state, says he won't challenge President Donald Trump for the GOP nomination in 2020.

Hogan, who was elected to his second term last fall, said in a statement posted Saturday on Twitter that while he appreciates "all of the encouragement" he received to run for president, "I will not be a candidate."

Hogan had been seen as potentially the best hope of a small group of so-called Never Trump Republicans who wanted to run a prominent Republican against Trump.

Hogan told The Associated Press in February that while he had serious concerns about Trump's lead-

ership, he had no interest in a "kamikaze mission."

In his statement Saturday, Hogan said he wanted to honor his commitment to the people of Maryland, where he said Democrats and Republicans work together to find "common-sense solutions to the serious problems facing our state." He also cited his new role as the incoming chairman of the National Governors Association.

Hogan first announced his decision in an interview with The Washington Post.

Trump already is facing a challenge from former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld. Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, one of Trump's rivals in 2016, has contemplated a primary challenge against Trump.

Kasich tweeted on Friday that he appreciates "all the encouragement" he has received to take on Trump, writing: "Know that while the path looks tough, all of my options are on the table. Like all of you, I want our country to be united, forward-looking and problem solving."

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Trump's tariffs slow momentum of trade deal

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The momentum that supporters have tried to build for a new North American trade deal has run into some Trump turbulence.

The Trump administration had taken steps in recent weeks to work with Democratic and Republican lawmakers to address concerns about the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada agreement.

Then President Donald Trump made his threat last week of a 5% tariff on Mexican imports unless America's southern neighbor cracked down on Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

His recent decision to remove U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico had appealed mostly Republicans who were using their trade vote as leverage to do away with those penalties.

The administration also had committed to meeting with a group of House Democrats to allay their concerns. That gesture created goodwill, and as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., described it, put Democrats "on a path to yes."

Now it's unclear where that path may lead.

Influential business groups fear that Trump's threat against Mexico could derail the proposed trade agreement.

"The last thing we want to do is put that landmark deal — and the 2 million manufacturing jobs that depend on North American trade in jeopardy," said Jay Timmons, president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it was considering legal action to block the tariffs from going into effect.

Some GOP senators are ranked, too, most notably Charles Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

"This is a misuse of presidential tariff authority and counter to congressional intent," Grassley said.

Congressional aides from both parties said that it's too soon to say whether Trump's proposal will derail the agreement. But it does make it harder for lawmakers to assess how the agreement would improve the economic landscape if the tariffs on Mexico go into place.

Democrats seem mostly concerned with other breaking developments.

Hours before Trump announced his tariff plan, his ad-

ministration tried to set up the agreement for a possible congressional vote before the August recess. The administration completed the formal steps necessary to start the clock for submitting legislation to Congress.

Pelosi said that was "not a positive step" and "indicates a lack of knowledge on the part of the administration on the policy and process to pass a trade agreement."

Democrats want to strengthen enforcement of labor and environmental standards in Mexico. They have pushed for Mexico to change labor laws that have encouraged wages as low as \$1 or \$2 per hour at some plants, giving U.S. companies a strong incentive to move operations south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mexico lawmakers have approved a law that requires secret ballot union votes and proof of workers' consent for contracts. Democrats in Washington want to ensure follow-through, and Pelosi still holds the final say in determining when or if, the agreement comes up for a vote.

Pelosi also joined several Republican senators in slamming Trump's tariff threat, saying it is "not rooted in wise trade policy but has more to do with bad immigration policy on his part."

"Yet again, the president is sowing chaos over the border instead of delivering solutions for American workers and for American consumers," Pelosi said.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said the tariffs should not jeopardize passage of the trade pact and that the president simply wants Mexico to do more to stem the flow of migrants.

Trump said he had the authority to impose a 5 percent levy on all goods imported from Mexico and pledged to increase those duties to as high as 25 percent if Mexico did not act dramatically to reduce the number of migrants crossing the border.



Hogan



'This is a misuse of presidential tariff authority and counter to congressional intent.'

Sen. Charles Grassley
R-Iowa

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WORLD

Huge cruise ship plows into boat, dock in Venice

By CAIN BURDEAU
AND LUCA BRUNO
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy — A towering, out-of-control cruise ship rammed into a dock and a tourist riverboat on a busy Venice canal Sunday morning, injuring four tourists and sparking new calls for placing restrictions on cruise ships in the famed but strained tourist city.

The collision happened about 8:30 a.m. local time on the Giudecca Canal, a major thoroughfare that leads to St. Mark's Square in the northeastern Italian city.

The cruise ship, apparently unable to stop, blared its horn as it plowed into the much smaller riverboat and the dock as dozens of people ran away in panic.

Elisabetta Pasqualin was watering plants on her terrace when she heard warning sirens and stepped out to see the crash.

"There was this huge ship in a

diagonal position in the Giudecca Canal, with a tugboat near which seemed like it couldn't do anything," she said.

She described the ship "advancing slowly but inevitably towards the dock." She said "the bow of the ship crashed hard into the bank with its massive weight crushing a big piece of it. Sirens were wailing loudly; it was a very dramatic scene."

When the cruise ship rammed the riverboat, she said the smaller vessel looked like it was "made of plastic or paper."

Medical authorities said four female tourists — an American, a New Zealander and two Australians between the ages of 67 and 72 — were injured falling or trying to run away when the cruise ship rammed into the tourist boat, the River Countess.

Venice is a tremendously popular site for both tourists and cruise ships, especially during



COURTESY OF THE VIGILI DEL FUOCO/AP

The MSC Opera, a towering cruise ship, strikes a tourist river boat, left, on Sunday in Venice, Italy, injuring at least four people.

the summer tourist season.

The cruise ship's owner, MSC Cruises, said the ship, the MSC Opera, was about to dock at a passenger terminal in Venice when it had a mechanical problem. Two tugboats guiding the cruise ship into Venice tried to stop the massive ship, but they were unable to prevent it from ramming into the riverboat.

"The two tugboats tried to stop the giant and then a tow cable broke, cut by the collision with the riverboat," Davide Calderan, president of a tugboat association in Venice, told the Italian news agency ANSA.

Calderan said the cruise ship's engine was locked when the captain called for help.

Following the collision, calls for banning cruise ships in Venice, long a source of contention

in the over-extended tourist city, were renewed.

For many, the crash served as a wake-up call. Opponents say cruise ships are out-of-scale for Venice, cause pollution, endanger the lagoon's ecosystem and pose a danger.

"Obviously, we've seen today that our worst fears have come true," said Jane Da Mosto, an environmental scientist and executive director of We Are Here Venice. Her group backs efforts to ban cruise ships from Venice.

"There were 111 people on the river cruise boat that the big ship crashed into. They could have all died," she said.

She said the cruise ship could have plowed through the concrete embankment and "hit houses, monuments and crowds of people."

Pope Francis beatifies 7 Romanian martyrs

BLAJ, Romania — Pope Francis paid homage to Catholics who were persecuted, tortured and killed during Romania's communist regime as he beatified seven bishop martyrs on his third and final day in the country.

Francis presided over the beatification ceremony Sunday in Blaj, a stronghold of the Greek Catholic church that was outlawed during communism. The seven bishops were arrested and imprisoned between 1950 and 1970 for adhering to their faith.

Because the seven bishops were declared martyrs, who died out of hatred for the Catholic faith, the Vatican didn't need to confer a miracle for them to be beatified; a miracle is needed for them to be made saints.

Trump: UK should leave EU without a deal

LONDON — President Donald Trump has waded into the most controversial issue in British politics by urging the U.K. government to leave the European Union without a deal if it can't get better terms from EU leaders.

Trump told the Sunday Times Britain should "walk away" from talks and refuse to pay a \$49 billion divorce bill if it doesn't get better terms from the EU.

The president also said Brexit party leader Nigel Farage should be given a role in the negotiations.

Trump has also taken the unusual step of saying Conservative Party leadership candidate Boris Johnson would make an "excellent" leader for the U.K.

5 workers die in subway tunnel collapse in China

BEIJING — Authorities said five workers are confirmed dead after the collapse of a subway tunnel under construction in the northeastern Chinese city of Qingdao.

The cause of the collapse remains under investigation.

China has been rapidly building and expanding mass rapid transit systems to accommodate growing urban populations and keep the slowing economy growing through government fiscal stimulus and infrastructure projects.

Partly as a result, China has suffered a steady stream of industrial accidents this year, including building and worksite collapses.

Italy's Mount Etna spews lava in new eruptions

CATANIA, Sicily — Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, is spewing ash and lava once again, but officials say the activity is taking place at its summit and does not pose a risk to people.

Etna began a new phase of eruptions on Thursday as new cracks in the volcano opened up, sending lava down its flank.

Eugenio Privitera, the director in Catania of Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, said visitors to Etna will need to be kept away from the summit for their own safety.

From The Associated Press

Danube levels drop; not enough to reach boat

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Hungarian water management authorities say the Danube River's high water levels, which have stymied efforts to reach a sunken tour boat where 21 missing people could be trapped, are falling.

The General Directorate of Water Management said Sunday the river has fallen 10 inches since midday Saturday when it crested at 19 feet, 3 inches.

Divers may try to reach the wreck once the Danube falls to about 13 feet, which is ex-

pected Wednesday, a week after a river cruise ship crashed into a tourist boat near the Margaret Bridge in Budapest.

A Hungarian judge on Saturday ordered the formal arrest of the 64-year-old Ukrainian captain of the Viking Sigyn cruise ship for 30 days. He said the captain could be released on bail — subject to him wearing a tracking device and remaining in Budapest — but prosecutors are appealing that decision.

The Viking ship collided Wednesday evening with a much smaller sightseeing boat that was carrying 33 South Koreans and two

Hungarian crewmembers. Seven people were killed, seven were rescued and 21 are still missing.

Divers so far have been unable to even approach the wreckage of the 88.5-foot tour boat due to high water levels, strong currents and murky waters. A Hungarian military ship has been anchored at the site to help the salvage operation.

The captain is suspected of endangering water traffic, causing a fatal mass disaster, which carries a sentence of two to eight years.

Lift those knees: Babies crawl to the Lithuanian finish line

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania — In Lithuania, the rat race of life apparently starts early.

Twenty-five babies took to the red carpet in Lithuania in a crawling race as their parents, grandparents and onlookers cheered the spectacle.

Saturday's event in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, was the 20th annual event staged by a local radio station to mark International Children's Day, celebrated in this Baltic nation on June 1.

Teams waved toys and even banged baby food cans to spur the 7-to-11-month-old baby girls and boys to move faster on the carpet.

An 11-month-old baby boy named Ignas managed to crawl over a few yards and reach the finish line first.



Babies crawl during the Baby Race event to mark international Children's Day in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Saturday.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

China blames US for trade dispute; stands firm

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING — China issued a report Sunday blaming the United States for a trade dispute and said it won't back down on "major issues of principle," but offered no clarification about what additional steps it will take up the ante.

The statement from the Cabinet spokesman's office said that China has kept its word throughout 11 rounds of talks and will honor its commitments if a trade agreement is reached. It accused the U.S. of backtracking three times over the course of the talks by introducing new tariffs and other conditions beyond what was agreed on.

"But the more the U.S. government is offered, the more it wants," it said, accusing America's negotiators of "resorting to intimidation and coercion."

"A country's sovereignty and dignity must be respected, and any agreement reached by the two sides must be based on equal-

ity and mutual benefit," it said.

The U.S. has accused China of stealing trade secrets and of forced technology transfers. The Trump administration has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to tax the \$300 billion in imports that have so far been spared. It also escalated the stakes last month by putting the Chinese telecom giant Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bars U.S. companies from supplying it with computer chips, software and other components without government approval.

Beijing responded by imposing tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. products, which went into effect Saturday. It also retaliated against the U.S. blacklisting of Huawei by announcing Friday that it will establish its own list of "unreliable entities" consisting of foreign businesses, corporations and individuals.

Wang Shouwen, vice commerce minister and deputy international trade representative, said China

would issue more detailed information on the unreliable entities list soon but said it was aimed at enterprises that "violated market principles" and cut supplies of components to Chinese businesses for noncommercial reasons.

Such actions affected China's national security and the public interest, he said.

China's statement that it intends to publish such a list follows additional measures last week that deepened the bite of U.S. sanctions imposed on Chinese electronics giant Huawei in mid-May.

Several leading U.S.-based global technology standards-setting groups announced restrictions in their activities under the U.S. Commerce Department rules, which bar the sale and transfer of U.S. technology to Huawei without government approval.

Wang also repeated suggestions that China could restrict the export of exotic minerals known as rare earths that are widely used

in electric cars, mobile phones and military weaponry. Foremost among them is lithium, the main component in modern batteries.

The threat to use China's rich supply of rare earths as leverage in the conflict has contributed to sharp losses in U.S. stocks and sliding long-term bond yields.

Being published in eight languages, Sunday's report lays out China's argument for blaming Washington for the frictions as well as the costs to both sides.

"Whatever the future might bring, China is confident of meeting challenges head-on, turning risks into opportunities and opening new chapters," it said. "China remains committed to its own cause no matter how the external environment changes."

"We still have sufficient room for fiscal and monetary policy maneuver" to maintain the health of the Chinese economy amid frictions, it said.

Wang said China had been forced to "take forceful measures in response" to U.S. actions and

denied China had backed down on its earlier commitments.

"It is irresponsible of the U.S. to accuse and smear China," Wang said.

In negotiations "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," Wang said. He said the U.S. had made unacceptable demands, including on tariffs and compulsory requirements that infringed on Chinese sovereignty.

He said of the U.S. tactics, "You give them an inch, they take a yard."

EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rates	Commercial rates
Euro costs (June 3)	\$1.1444	\$1.1444
Dollar buys (June 3)	0.8738	0.8738
British pound	1.3530	1.3530
Canadian (Dollar)	0.7535	0.7535
Australian (Dollar)	0.6004	0.6004
Denmark (Krone)	6.6692	6.6692
Egypt (Pound)	16.7409	16.7409
Iceland (Krona)	1.1159	1.1159
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8428	7.8428
Hungary (Forint)	290.87	290.87
Ireland (Euro)	0.9065	0.9065
Japan (Yen)	105.81	105.81
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3044	0.3044
Norway (Krone)	8.7010	8.7010
Poland (Zloty)	52.19	52.19
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7592	3.7592
South Korea (Won)	1,191.97	1,191.97
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0051	1.0051
Thailand (Baht)	31.61	31.61
Turkey (Lira)	5.3396	5.3396

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Commercial rates are those available to the general public.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.38
3-month bill	2.31
30-year bond	2.65

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

NORTHERN IRELAND EDITION

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INVASION!



D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

A day that shaped history

BY ROBERT H. REID
Stars and Stripes

It was a day that defined the world for generations.

On June 6, 1944, about 160,000 American, British and Canadian troops stormed five beaches along a 60-mile front in Normandy in the largest seaborne invasion in history. They seized a foothold in northern France and paved the way for the defeat of Nazi Germany less than a year later.

Thousands died in the first 24 hours, although the precise number of casualties remains in doubt. Tens of thousands more died before the Germans were swept from Normandy nearly three months later.

Seventy-five years later, the world still lives in the shadow of D-Day. The events of

that day molded history for generations to come.

Had the landings failed, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin might have considered a separate peace with Adolf Hitler, as Russia had done in 1917 during World War I. If the Soviets remained in the war, they would likely have seized even more territory, expanding Communist control of a wider area of post-war Europe.

Even if the United States had rebounded, the shock of defeat on the Normandy beaches could have cost Franklin D. Roosevelt the White House in the November 1944 election. Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower would have become historical footnotes.

And countless more soldiers, sailors and airmen would have likely died before the global conflict finally ended.

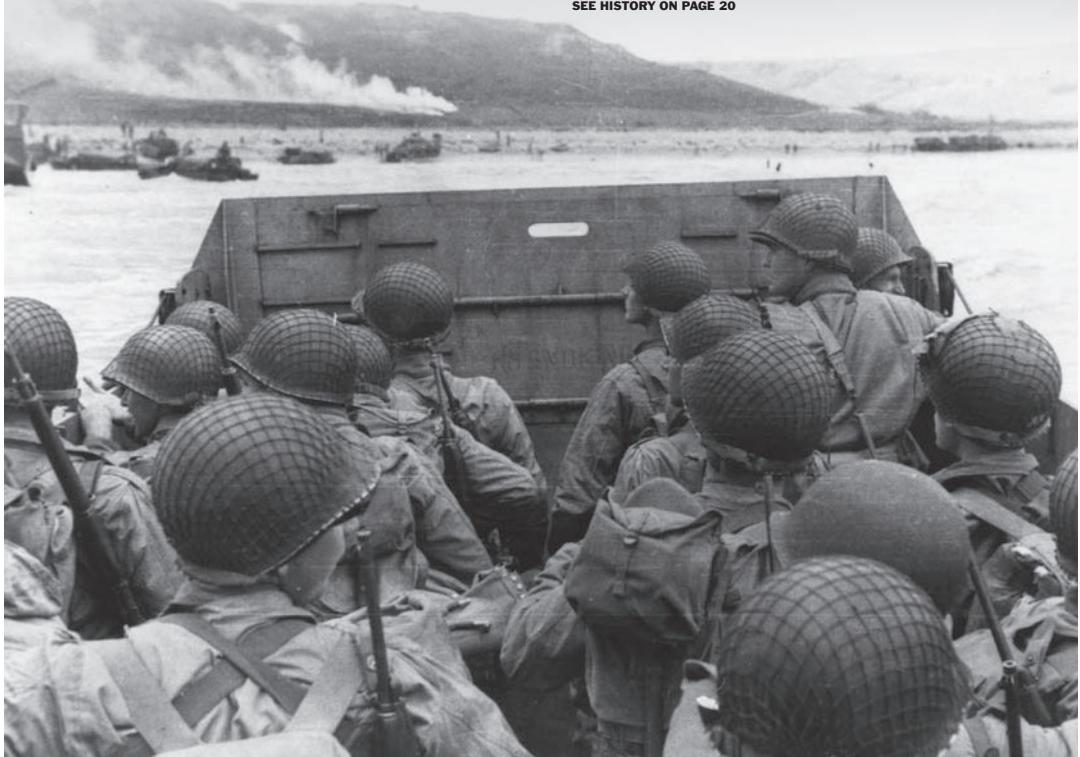
SEE HISTORY ON PAGE 20

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, troops in a landing craft approach Omaha Beach. At Omaha, one of five landing areas on the coast of Normandy, France, the U.S. 1st and 29th divisions came under heavy fire. Despite bombardment from air and sea, the Nazis still had plenty of firepower, turning Omaha into a killing field.

Photograph from the Army Signal Corps Collection in the U.S. National Archives



The Northern Ireland edition of Stars and Stripes reports news of the Allied landing.



History: Allies had been pondering assault since '42

FROM PAGE 19

Long before the first Allied paratrooper stepped out the door of his aircraft or the first shells roared from the 1,140 Allied warships offshore, the British and the Americans had been pondering the idea of a massive assault along the French coast to confront the Nazi war machine.

In March 1942, only three months after the U.S. had entered the war, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall sent the White House a plan for an invasion across the English Channel into France by April 1943.

For Marshall and Eisenhower, speed was essential. Unless they took the war to the Germans soon, American generals feared that the Soviet Union, bearing the brunt of the ground war, might collapse. That would free hundreds of thousands of German soldiers to face the Western Allies. Roosevelt concurred — if the British agreed.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill balked. Churchill remained deeply suspicious of amphibious assaults ever since the disastrous Gallipoli landings in World War I. British Australian and New Zealand forces suffered more than 160,700 casualties before abandoning the Gallipoli operation against the Ottoman Turks.

Churchill argued that American forces were untested in combat and ill-prepared to face the Germans in a head-on assault. He urged that the Allies instead land in North Africa and engage German and Italian forces there. He believed control of the Mediterranean was vital to British interests in the Suez Canal and its territories in India and East Asia.

Marshall and Eisenhower were loath to expend American lives and resources in what they considered a sideshow to defend someone else's empire.

However, Roosevelt overruled his generals and on July 30, 1942, ordered them to land instead in North Africa. That ruled out any cross-Channel invasion before 1944. Eisenhower complained privately that Roosevelt's decision was the "blackest day in history."

Churchill's views appeared validated a few weeks later by a catastrophic raid on the French fishing port of Dieppe on the Normandy coast.

More than 6,000 Canadian, British and U.S. Army Rangers stormed ashore on Aug. 19, 1942. After less than 10 hours of heavy fighting, nearly 60 percent of the Allied force had been killed, wounded or captured.

Canada suffered nearly 3,500 casualties among its 5,000-man raiding force. The British lost 106 aircraft, one destroyer and 33 landing craft. None of the major Allied objectives had been met when survivors fled back to England.

Dieppe taught the Allies that a major cross-Channel assault would not succeed without a massive air and naval bombardment, better intelligence and the element of surprise. It also con-

vinced Allied planners that they should avoid a frontal assault on a defended port and land instead on rural beaches.

Marshall and Eisenhower went back to the drawing boards and developed a plan — Operation Overlord — to strike the beaches in Normandy in 1944, even as American and Allied troops were still fighting the Germans and their Italian allies in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

The decisive Soviet victory over the Germans at Stalingrad in late 1942 and early 1943 meant the Western Allies had time to prepare without fearing an imminent Soviet collapse.

Meanwhile, Hitler began his own planning for a showdown in France. In February 1943, he transferred Gen. Erwin Rommel from North Africa, where the Germans faced defeat, to France to prepare German defenses.

Over the next months, Rommel began work on the "Atlantic Wall," a 2,400-mile network of bunkers, landmines and sea obstacles, aimed at stopping the invasion on the beach. By June 6, 1944, Rommel estimated that less than 20 percent of the fortifications had been completed.

In late 1943, Roosevelt and Churchill met with Stalin in Tehran, Iran. Despite British misgivings, the two Western leaders promised Stalin they would invade across the Channel in the coming year. In return, Stalin promised to launch a simultaneous offensive in Eastern Europe and enter the war against Japan after Germany surrendered.

Eisenhower was named Supreme Allied Commander and planned kicking into high gear. The Americans were to land on the westernmost beaches — code-named Utah and Omaha — while the British and Canadians would storm three other locations — Gold, Juno and Sword.

The 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division would jump behind German lines on the western flank, while British and Canadian airborne units would parachute along the eastern flank.

For months Allied bombers pounded German defenses and rail networks to disrupt communications and prevent the Nazis from sending reinforcements to the battlefield. Adapting from the lessons of the failed Dieppe raid, the Allies built portable docks, known as "Mulberry harbors," so they could land supplies without having to seize a port.

They also devised a massive disinformation campaign, complete with phony communications networks, double agents and dummy units, to trick the Germans into thinking the main attack would come at Pas-de-Calais, the narrowest point between France and England northeast of the real landing zones.

The date for the invasion was selected to take advantage of moonlight and maximum low tides, which would expose German obstacles just off the beaches. Eisenhower chose June 5, 1944, but heavy rain and winds forced a 24-hour delay.



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the Order of the Day to paratroopers in England just before they board their airplanes to participate in the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.

Right: Eisenhower's written Order of the Day

The Eisenhower Presidential Library

At midnight on June 5, Royal Air Force bombers began blasting coastal defenses. A couple of hours later, paratroopers began jumping into France. After a ferocious naval bombardment, infantry and armor landed by boat after 6:30 a.m. More than 11,000 Allied aircraft swarmed the skies, preventing the German Luftwaffe from seriously threatening the invasion from the air.

Nevertheless, the landings didn't go exactly according to plan.

High winds and heavy ground-fog wreaked havoc among paratroopers and glider units, scattering many of them far from the drop zones. Many drowned in flooded wetlands. One unit of the 82nd Airborne, F Company of the 505th Airborne Infantry, landed in the middle of the village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise and was cut to pieces by the Germans.

Sea swells pushed landing craft away from their targets. Soldiers jumped into the surf disoriented and seasick as they faced intense German fire.

German resistance was the fiercest at Omaha, one of the American beaches, and Juno, where the 14,000-strong Canadian force suffered 340 dead, 574 wounded and 47 captured.

At Omaha, units of the 1st Infantry Division and the 29th Infantry Division faced withering fire from a full German division. Intelligence expected them to face only a regiment. Within the first 10 minutes, all the officers and sergeants from one company were killed or wounded. The combat-experienced 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!
You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms throughout the other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free

world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, in man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air. Their capacity to wage war on the ground, their Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal greater reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Division was scattered all over the beach as sea swells pushed its landing craft off course.

Within four hours half the first wave at Omaha was dead or wounded. Gen. Omar Bradley, watching from a ship offshore, wrote that he considered evacuating the beach and diverting forces from Utah and the British — in part because rough seas pushed the landing craft a few miles south of their target when German defenders were fewer.

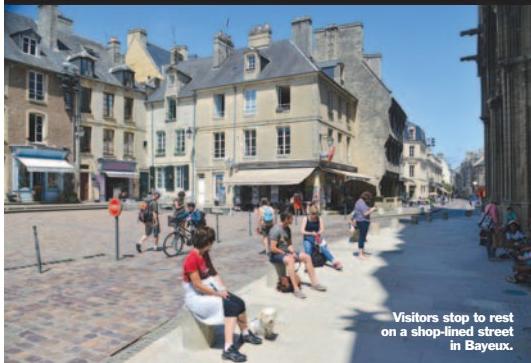
By the end of the day, the Allies had suffered major casualties and had failed to achieve many objectives, including seizing Caen. By the end of June 6, the Allies had suffered an estimated 10,000 casualties, including more than 4,400 dead.

That figure was roughly the same number of dead the U.S. military would suffer decades later during more than eight years of war in Iraq.

But the Germans had failed to push them off the beaches.

Nearly a year of bloody fighting lay ahead. But the Allied victory in Europe was assured.

D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Brimming with history

While visiting D-Day beaches, stop in Bayeux and see Notre Dame Cathedral, war cemetery

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

The 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy will bring vast numbers of visitors to the memorials and sites along the invasion beaches, where some of the last veterans alive who helped win World War II will be honored.

If you're thinking of going for the anniversary or during a quieter time, seeing where the Allies came ashore will be the highlight. But the town of Bayeux, a quick 15-mile drive east from Omaha Beach, makes either a great side trip or a convenient place to stay while visiting the region.

Bayeux's most famous attraction tells the story of a much older war that changed the course of history. It is home to the 230-foot-long Bayeux Tapestry, an 11th-century tale of the Battle of Hastings. Make sure to get the audio guide to hear how King William I — Guillaume to the French — conquered England and laid the foundations for what would become Britain.

The tapestry was at once a creative work and a brilliant piece of propaganda — few at the time could read, but the illustrations make clear who was "in the right" in a three-way feud among nobles and their armies.

From there, we walked to Rue Saint Jean, a main road that continues in varying names. On market days, vendors are out selling food and drink — with free samples — along with souvenirs, clothing,



Nearly 5,000 servicemen are buried at Bayeux War Cemetery.

toys and even some livestock. While knowing a few words in French always helps, there are enough tourists from across the Channel that they're likely to understand a little bit of English.

Some of the shops on the street sell specialties from the region, which is heavily agricultural. Their most famous beverage is calvados, an apple brandy that takes its name from the greater area. Pommeau, a mixture of calvados and local apple juice, is a mellower, tasty alternative. I'd also

The 13th-century Notre Dame Cathedral in Bayeux, France, dominates the town. Its crypt dates to the 11th century, and its copper dome is from the 19th century.

Directions

Bayeux is accessible from multiple local roads and by train from Paris Saint-Lazare Station.

Costs

The tapestry museum is 9.50 euros for adults, 5 euros for students and free under age 10.

Information

Online: bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com/en

recommend buying a jar of fine-grained, spicy mustard, spiked with a dash of calvados.

After a free sample or five, we stopped for lunch at l'Achimie, which offered a creative yet affordable three-course menu, paired with a wheat beer or a glass of wine. I doubt you'll go wrong with seafood fresh off the boat in Bayeux.

We then wandered through some of the town gardens to the 13th-century Notre Dame Cathedral, a rebuilt Gothic church that started out as Norman-Romanesque in 1077, when King William came for the

This article previously ran in the May 24 Weekend Edition of Stars and Stripes.

consecration. The Tree of Liberty outside dates to 1797 and is in some ways just as impressive for surviving so long.

Even amid the church's serenity, reminders of war are never far away. Shops still sell bullet casings, helmets and other pieces of the WWII scrap that once blanketed the town. And less than a mile from the cathedral, the Bayeux War Cemetery memorializes the 4,848 servicemen who died under the command of the United Kingdom and its commonwealth.

Across the street from the cemetery is the Reporters Memorial, a forested park with pathways to concrete slabs that list the names of more than 2,000 reporters who, from WWII to the present, died in the pursuit of providing the public with information about their world. It's a good reminder that journalism is so much more than a commentator you don't like on a cable news channel.

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Ken and Linda Parker stand inside the new Bedford Boys Tribute Center in Bedford, Va., on May 14. The Parkers opened the center in what used to be Green's Drug Store (top inset), where Western Union telegrams arrived in July 1944, alerting Bedford families of their sons, brothers and husbands who were killed during the invasion of Normandy, France.

NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes

NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes

Above: A letter mailed to Staff Sgt. John Schenk on June 6, 1944, the day on which he was killed in the D-Day invasion. It was returned marked "deceased." Below: letters mailed to Schenk.

PHOTOS BY JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes



Bedford remembers

Per capita losses for small Virginia town were among the highest in the States

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WEDEBORD, Va. — Western Union clerk Elizabeth Teass sat at a Teletype machine near the back of Green's Drug Store just after 8 a.m. on Monday, July 17, 1944, when the first telegram came through.

"The Secretary of war desires me to express his deep regret..."

Until that point in the war, Teass was accustomed to receiving about one telegram each week informing families in Bedford, Va., and the surrounding area that their sons, brothers or husbands were missing or killed in action. That day, she received 11.

Word spread quickly after the initial telegram, and the county reeled at the news.



BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes/TNS

Bedford, then a close-knit community of fewer than 4,000 people in the Shenandoah Valley, was home to Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. The Army National Guard unit was called into federal service when the United States entered World War II, and 37 men from Bedford joined the fight.

The community suspected that Company A was involved in the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6. More than a month later, the sheer number of telegrams served as confirmation.

The telegrams kept coming Tuesday, Wednesday and into Thursday afternoon. Farming families poured into

the center of the town, seeking information about their loved ones. They paced between Green's Drug Store and the Presbyterian church across the street, where many of them slept that week.

Green's, with its popular soda fountain, was the hub of Bedford — a place the men who went off to war had worked and socialized. One of them, Staff Sgt. John Schenk, had his first date there with his future wife, Ivylyn.

That week, though, the two-story brick building on Main Street became a makeshift command post. It was there that the town eventually learned that 20 of its residents were dead, 19 of them from Company A.

"Their footprints are all over this place," said Bedford resident Ken Parker, sitting at a table in the old Green's Drug Store in early May.

Bedford's loss was so unconscionable that the town would

later be chosen as the site of the National D-Day Memorial, which opened in 2001 and pays tribute to all Allied forces that participated in the invasion.

But there was no space dedicated solely to the "Bedford Boys" — until now.

Modest tribute

Seventy-five years after the D-Day invasion, Parker, 75, and his wife, Linda, 70, have transformed the old Green's building into a space honoring the 20 men who died and those who returned.

The corner brick building sits at the highest point of Main Street in Bedford, the Blue Ridge Mountains foothills visible to the west, the Presbyterian church with its tall white steeple still across the road.

SEE TRIBUTE ON PAGE 23

Tribute: Town now sharing grief

FROM PAGE 22

Straight ahead through the main street is a cafe with a dozen tables, the same spot that used to house the old soda fountain. To the right is the Bedford Boys Tribute Center — one room containing photos of the Company A soldiers, artifacts from the families and descriptions of what happened to the unit on D-Day, being in the first wave of U.S. forces to hit the shore.

Unlike the National D-Day Memorial, which sprawls across 88 acres atop a hill above Bedford, the tribute center is modest, but personal.

"Not only does this tell the story of the Bedford Boys, but it's in for the best location," Joe Banner, special projects manager for the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, said of the tribute center. "There's all this history that took place within these walls."

The Parkers arrived in Bedford last year as outsiders. They moved 1,200 miles from Newcastle, Okla., drawn in by the town's history.

Ken Parker first heard of Bedford and its tragic legacy in the 1980s. Last year, while preparing for a trip to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, he read two books about the Bedford Boys. That's when the couple decided they should reach out to surviving family members in Bedford to ask whether they wanted any artifacts to be placed at the D-Day site in France.

The Parkers wrote a two-page letter and distributed it to churches around Bedford in April 2018. Two weeks later, their phone began to ring.

"By May 1, the phone is ringing off the hook," Ken Parker said. "After a while I said to Linda, 'These people want these stories told.'"

In July, they traveled to Bedford on what was supposed to be an extended research trip for a book of profiles they plan to write about the Bedford Boys. They stayed several weeks, and when the building that had once housed Green's Drug Store went on the market in October, they bought it.

The center officially opened in May, just in time for a week of D-Day anniversary events the town will host in early June. The Parkers believe it serves as a symbol for a town that's finally healing — 75 years after the event that destabilized it.

"It was just devastating," Ken Parker said. "Our modern-day terms of 'closure' and 'cycles of grief,' all of that didn't exist then. Work ethic, pulling yourself up by the bootstraps, everybody pitching in — well, they couldn't. The shock of that Monday and that week was so encompassing and so powerful that it violated all the habits of that generation."

Generational change

While the community wasn't wallowing in grief, many of the affected families were keeping their stories private, Parker said. In many cases, the parents of the men killed in action kept their belongings in boxes — too painful to bring out in the open. The siblings who inherited the boxes also kept them closed, treating them as sacred.

Now that they've been handed down to nieces and nephews, things are beginning to change. The Parkers saw this during one of their interviews, when one nephew found and opened a stack of letters his grandmother had sent to his uncle before she knew he had been killed.

Some families shared their keepsakes for display at the tribute center.



A statue at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., pays homage to the 'Bedford Boys,' 19 members of Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, who died during the invasion of Normandy.

"Things are shifting now," Ken Parker said. "The families are bringing these artifacts out in the open for educational purposes."

There are high school class rings, Purple Hearts and original copies of the KIA telegrams.

An acoustic guitar that Pfc. Jack Gilbert Powers took with him to Europe sits behind a glass case. One family shared a military trunk belonging to Lt. Elisha Ray Nance, who returned from World War II and was the last surviving member of Company A before he died in 2009.

"I think it took the opening of this tribute center for a lot of families to sit around and have these conversations, pull

'Bedford Boys'

Thirty-seven men from the small town of Bedford, Va., including multiple sets of brothers, participated in the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Of those, 20 were killed in action — 19 that day, and one, Pfc. Charles W. Fizer, on July 11. Because of the disproportionately high losses to the town, the men became widely known as the "Bedford Boys."

Killed in action:

- Capt. Taylor N. Fellers
- Master Sgt. John L. Wilkes
- Technical Sgt. Frank P. Draper Jr.
- Technical Sgt. Ray O. Stevens
- Staff Sgt. Leslie C. "Dickie" Abbott Jr.
- Staff Sgt. Raymond S. Hoback
- Staff Sgt. Earl Lloyd Parker
- Staff Sgt. John H. Schenk
- Staff Sgt. Elmer P. Wright
- Sgt. Gordon "Henry" White Jr.
- Sgt. Grant C. Yopp
- Pfc. Wallace R. Carter
- Pfc. John D. "J.D." Clifton
- Pfc. Nickolas N. Gillaspie
- Pfc. Charles W. Fizer
- Pfc. Weldon A. Rosazza
- Pfc. Jack G. Powers
- Pfc. John F. "Jack" Reynolds
- Pvt. Bedford T. Hoback
- Pvt. Clifton G. Lee

Survivors:

- First Lt. Elisha "Ray" Nance
- Technical Sgt. Henry "Clyde" Powers
- Technical Sgt. Roy O. Stevens
- Staff Sgt. Robert D. Edwards Jr.
- Staff Sgt. Robert L. Goode
- Staff Sgt. Allen M. Hudleston
- Staff Sgt. Robert E. "Tony" Marisco
- Staff Sgt. Jack W. Mitchell
- Staff Sgt. Earl R. Newcomb
- Staff Sgt. Anthony M. Thurman
- Sgt. Harold E. Wilkes
- Pfc. James L. Lancaster
- Pfc. Glenwood E. "Dickie" Overstreet
- Pfc. James W. Watson
- Technician Fourth Grade
- Cedric C. Broughman
- Technician Fourth Grade
- George E. Crouch
- Technician Fourth Grade
- James H. Crouch

NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes

75th anniversary event

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation is preparing for about 15,000 people to visit Bedford, Va., from June 4 to 9 in honor of the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

On June 6, the memorial will host "The Final Salute," a ceremony that's expected to be the biggest gathering at the memorial since former President George W. Bush dedicated it in 2001. About 70 World War II veterans are planning to attend, including 20 veterans who were involved in the D-Day invasion.

Information: www.dday.org/75th/

Bedford has been hard hit'

BEDFORD, Va. — Unlike many of the units that hit the shores of Normandy on D-Day, Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, was a National Guard outfit of men from the same hometown.

Thirty-seven had grown up together in Bedford, Va., graduated high school together, worked together — and 19 of them died together.

One woman in Bedford was hired by the state to write monthly reports about Bedford, describing the feelings of the townspeople, their working conditions and church attendance during World War II. The letters, signed "Mrs. George P. Parker," are now kept at the Bedford Museum.

"Reports continue to come in of Bedford boys killed in combat or died of wounds," Parker wrote Aug. 15, 1944. "People are brave, but tensely anxious. Bedford has been hard hit."

The per capita losses for Bedford on D-Day were among the highest in the country. In addition to the National D-Day Memorial established in Bedford in 2001, the significance of that history is apparent in the small community where it's apparent in the other ways.

Half of the flags lining the downtown thoroughfare read, "Bedford Remembers," and the other half show photos of the 19 soldiers — referred to reverently as the "Bedford Boys."

Many of the older buildings in town are adorned with plaques denoting their connection to the Bedford Boys, including the old Green's Drug Store, the former Bedford High School — now vacant — and two factories where several men had worked. Library Station is now a popular local restaurant, but it used to be a working train station where Company A departed for the war.

"It's part of the town's DNA," said Jennifer Thomson, genealogical librarian at the Bedford Museum.

So, too, is military service, Thomson said.

German forces nearly obliterated Company A and its soldiers on June 6, 1944. With only a handful of more than 200 members fit for duty, the unit was disbanded after the war and remained dormant for 10 years.

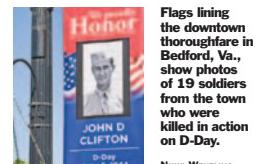
"It was wiped out, decimated," said Ken Parker, who's writing a book of profiles about the Bedford Boys.

But in 1954, it was reactivated by Lt. Elisha "Ray" Nance, who participated in the invasion of Normandy and returned to Bedford, where he worked as a mail carrier. Several other former members of Company A joined him in the reactivated unit.

Decades later, Company A is still headquartered in Bedford. In the early 2000s, the unit deployed to Afghanistan with the National D-Day Memorial serving as the site of the sendoff.

"There certainly is a legacy in the community of serving, a very proud legacy," said Joe Banner, special projects manager for the National D-Day Memorial. "It's really retained a lot of its military history and lineage, and I think that's very special."

— Nikki Wentling



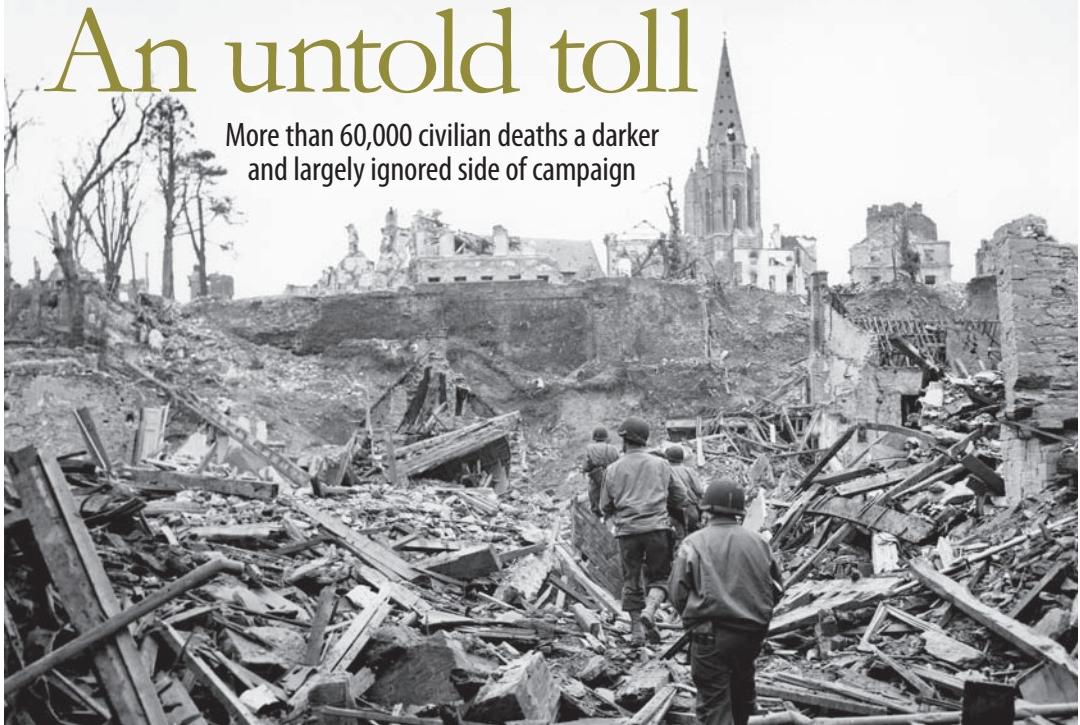
Flags lining the downtown thoroughfare in Bedford, Va., show photos of 19 soldiers from the town who were killed in action on D-Day.

NIKKI WENTLING/Stars and Stripes



An untold toll

More than 60,000 civilian deaths a darker and largely ignored side of campaign



PHOTOS BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/Stars and Stripes

Above: An American infantry patrol picks its way through the ruins of Saint-Lo, France, during mopping-up operations against the Germans. Below: Members of the 1st Battalion 355th Engineers clear wrecked streets of Saint-Lo so that traffic could move by road from Omaha Beach.

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The heroic image of soldiers storming the beach at Normandy understandably dominates the collective American memory of D-Day, but the operation had a dark side that 75 years later remains a footnote: the toll on French civilians.

More than 60,000 noncombatants were killed in connection with a D-Day bombing campaign by the Allies, which began three months earlier to isolate the battlefield ahead of the June 6, 1944, ground invasion.

"Americans have no idea about it," said Stephen Bourque, professor emeritus of military history at the School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. "I never had any idea of the scale and scope."

The destruction wasn't limited to bridges, rail lines and military posts used by the Germans in occupied Norman towns. Homes, churches and historic buildings were leveled. Bourque is shining a light on

the forgotten history in his recently published book, "Beyond the Beach," which examines the Allied air assault on France.

The lore surrounding D-Day attracts thousands every year to Normandy, where especially large crowds are expected this year to mark the operation's 75th anniversary. D-Day is "big business" yet there is discomfort in dwelling on its uglier side, Bourque said.

But awareness of the civilian toll is growing, at least in France. "This stuff is starting to come out now," he said.

Leading into the invasion in Normandy, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wanted to make sure German troops would be cut off. Allied commanders were deeply worried about the German ability to reinforce its flank, taking advantage of French transportation infrastructure that could make it easy to ferry supplies and troops to the front.

Civilians would be hit and Allied commanders knew it, said Bourque, whose book was published by the Naval Institute Press.

SEE TOLL ON PAGE 25





DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/Stars and Stripes

The French town of Saint-Lo is left in rubble and ruin following some of the bitterest fighting in World War II.

Toll: Allied bombing causes civilian casualties

FROM PAGE 24

Towns that were flattened include Tilly-la-Campagne, Vire, Villers-Bocage, Le Havre, Caen, Falaise, Lisieux and Saint-Lo. "I spent my whole life thinking the town of Saint-Lo was destroyed during the battle of Saint-Lo. I had no idea it was Allied bombing," Bourque said.

Conflicted feelings over the destruction lingered long afterward among some French veterans.

In a 2014 interview, Andre Heintz, then 94, recalled the bombing of Caen, where he was a 24-year-old resistance fighter.

"I was haunted by what I saw — it was terrible to see so many wounded. It was difficult to bear," Heintz told Britain's The Guardian newspaper.

"Obviously it was a crime to cause such destruction and kill so many people, but probably it was the only thing to stop the Germans long enough from rushing towards the sea," he said.

The Allied bombers served as Eisenhower's "long-range heavy artillery."

From the start of the campaign through June 6, 22,000 aircraft had dropped more than 42,000 tons of bombs on 100 railway targets in the Seine Valley, between Le Havre and Paris, according to the D-Day Commemoration Committee in France. German military positions and radar bases also were hit.

The second phase of the bombing campaign began after dark June 5, when British bombers began pulverizing the Normandy coastline. At dawn, more than 1,500 American bombers took over. "That morning, a dozen urbanized areas and their road and rail infrastructures were also targeted," according to a D-Day commemoration committee's synopsis of the air campaign. "As at Caen, Flers, Condé-sur-Noireau and Lisieux disappeared in flames."

During the mission, low clouds, fire and smoke made it hard to identify targets, so towns were bombed again. The U.S. 8th Air Force hit a dozen towns with the aim of preventing the German forces from advancing toward the beaches, the D-Day

committee's history states.

Despite the damage and high civilian casualty numbers — more French civilians were killed in the brief Allied air campaign than the number of American troops killed in the entire Vietnam War — the history gets passing reference in many accounts.

A few European authors have devoted books to it and Bourque is the latest historian to delve into the issue of civilian casualties. "I think I am the first American to write anything about this," he said.

In the U.S., much of the public's understanding of D-Day has been shaped by films that documented the against-the-odds battlefield exploits. Movies like "Saving Private Ryan" and the series "Band of Brothers" didn't shy away from the brutality of war, but it's largely seen from the perspective of how it was experienced by American troops.

Yet the toll on French civilians during the air campaign in support of D-Day operations was extraordinary and unique. While some mass deaths are well documented — the civilian toll of the fire bombings of Tokyo and Dresden are examples — the air assault on France is unusual in that Allied civilians were on the receiving end.

Even the U.S. military shies away from D-Day's dark side in its own historical record of World War II. "They don't want to talk about it from a cultural point of view," Bourque said.

At least 60,000 civilians were killed, but the numbers could have been more than 70,000, Bourque said.

"It's not a simple narrative. It's a complex narrative and it's hard," he said.

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Forgotten history

More than 60,000 French civilians were killed in connection with a massive D-Day bombing campaign by Allies, which began three months earlier to isolate the battlefield for the June 6 invasion. Towns that were flattened include Tilly-la-Campagne, Vire, Villers-Bocage, Le Havre, Caen, Falaise, Lisieux and Saint-Lo.

Villers-Bocage



Saint-Lo



Caen

Lisieux



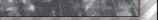
Normandy



Vire



Condé-sur-Noireau



Flers



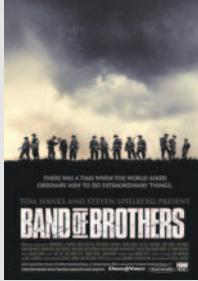
Falaise



BEN SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

From battlefield to big screen



"Band of Brothers" was broadcast on HBO in 2001 just two days before 9/11.

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

D-Day at the movies: rousing, gruesome, somber and sometimes tragicomic.

This is the day that changed the world. They depended on each other — and the world depended on them. In the last great invasion of the last great war, the greatest danger for eight men was saving ... one. The real glory of war is surviving. Swinging's their game and London will never be the same!

So said the taglines for some of the best known movies and series that focused, at least in part, on D-Day. "The Longest Day," "Band of Brothers," "Saving Private Ryan" and "The Big Red One" — the first four — mostly strove to portray the Allied invasion to defeat the Nazis as brutal and heartbreaking, but also heroic and necessary. It was, as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said in his rallying speech that day, "this great and noble

undertaking."

Were they realistic? Sam Fuller, a World War II infantryman who directed "The Big Red One" — a 1980 recounting based on his experiences of an infantry squad fighting its way across North Africa and Sicily, from Normandy to Czechoslovakia — said that would be impossible.

To convey real combat to movie audiences, "you'd have to shoot at them every so often from either side of the screen," he said in his memoir, "A Third Face." "The casualties in the theater would be bad for business."

It hardly matters, film historians say.

"I think war movies affect Americans at a visceral level," said Dave Hogan, director of the Histories Division at the U.S. Army Center of Military History. "At some level people know it's not real but it still affects them emotionally."

In fact, war movies "have done more to stamp the wars' images in the American psyche than the reality of those wars themselves," argue Glenn Jeansonne and David Luhrssen, authors of "War on the Silver Screen: Shaping America's Perception of History."

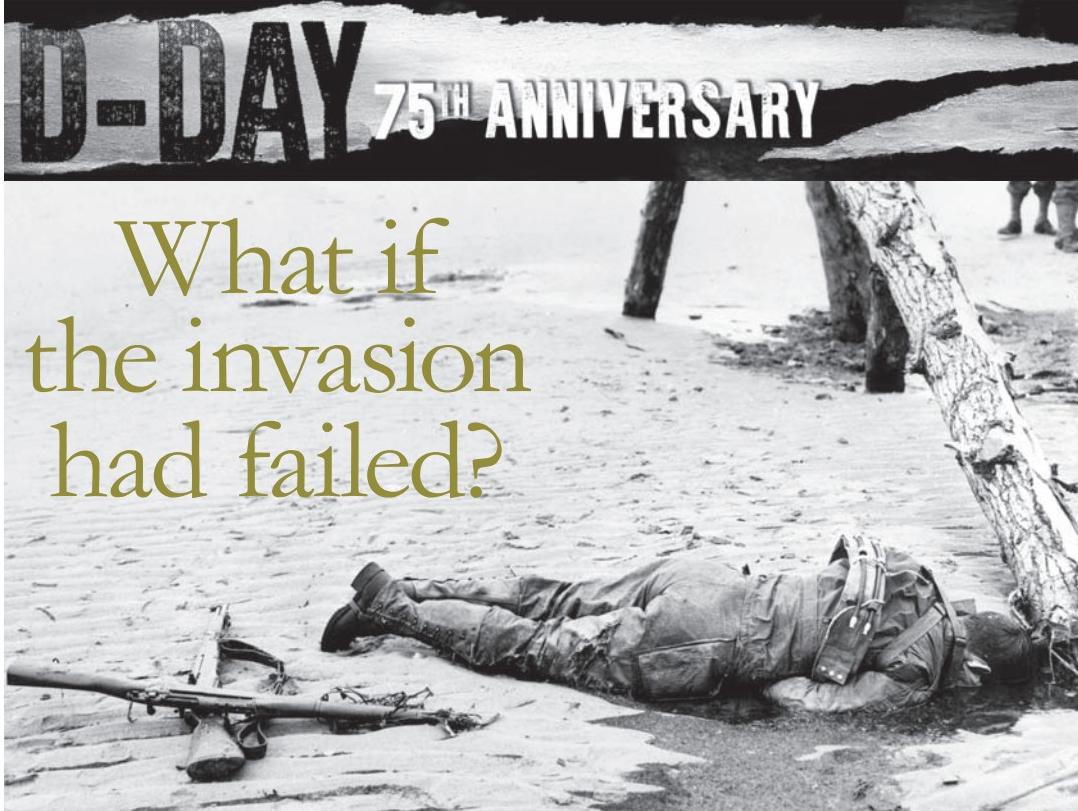
Some critics argue that war movies always

SEE SCREEN ON PAGE 27

Tom Hanks, right, and Tom Sizemore, left, appear in a scene from the 1998 film "Saving Private Ryan." The World War II movie generally attempted to portray the Allied invasion to defeat the Nazis as brutal and heartbreaking, but also heroic and necessary — Dwight D. Eisenhower's "great and noble undertaking."

DREAMWORKS/AP





What if the invasion had failed?

Despite common conclusions, the Soviet Union might have been the big winner

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had his resignation letter ready for a reason: The success of Operation Overlord was never a given.

When the Allies stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, they faced daunting odds as they attacked the Nazis' "Atlantic Wall."

"If any alarm or fault attaches to the attempt it will be alone," Eisenhower wrote in a statement to be read to the American people in the event of failure.

The statement proved unnecessary — the largest amphibious assault in military history was a success, though 4,414 Allied troops were killed that day. But given the slim margins for victory, it begs the question: What if D-Day had failed?

A common conclusion among armchair generals is that Germany would have gone on to win the war, but that might have been an unlikely scenario.

"By that point in the war, the Russians are barreling toward Germany," said Kurt Piehler, director of Florida State University's Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. "The outcome if D-Day failed is the Soviets would have liberated France, which would have had a very different postwar map."

Around the time of D-Day, the tide had begun to turn on the eastern front, where the Soviets had expelled the Germans

from Russian territory at enormous cost after three years of fighting.

Just two weeks after D-Day, the Soviets launched Operation Bagration, a surprise attack involving 1.5 million Russian troops who blasted through the German army in Belarus. The operation was the beginning of what would be some of the largest losses for the German military during the war. The Russians would wipe out 28 of 34 German army divisions on the eastern front during the Bagration campaign.

By August, the Red Army was on the doorstep of Warsaw and Berlin wasn't far off. At the same time, the Allies had made it to Paris. But if D-Day failed, it would have taken time for the U.S. to regroup for another invasion. It took years of planning to launch D-Day in the first place.

"Roosevelt really hated the Nazis, so I see him as persevering," Piehler said.

It isn't clear how the Germans would have reacted in the event of a D-Day victory. They might have moved forces east to deal with the Russians, but Hitler also would have been concerned about being attacked again in the West.

Nonetheless, by this point, the Russians had momentum. "The dirty secret of the Russians were going to win the war," said Stephen Bourque, professor emeritus of military history at the School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth,

Kan. "They (the Russians) are moving pretty quick at this point."

If D-Day failed, "the Russians would have ended up in France," Bourque said. "The Russians could have ended up in the Netherlands or Belgium. What would that have been like?"

It could be argued that D-Day, more than being a decisive factor in winning the war in Europe, ultimately saved western Europe from being dominated by the Soviet Union in the way other countries were under the Iron Curtain during the postwar period. While Britain declared war on Germany over its annexation of Poland, the U.S. and Britain essentially ceded the country to the Soviets who liberated it from the Nazis.

After Germany's surrender, Europe was divided and countries like East Germany, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria served as satellite states of the Soviet Union.

Would the U.S. have ceded all of Germany and France — the bulk of Western Europe — to the Soviets if the Red Army had pushed through because of D-Day's failure? If the U.S. demanded the Soviets pull back, would Joseph Stalin have complied or staked his claim? And if the Soviets held their position, would the Cold War have come to an immediate, violent head in 1945?

Historians say it's impossible to guess

how it all could have played out.

But by late summer of 1945, when President Harry S. Truman and Joseph Stalin met in Potsdam, Germany, to finalize the postwar map, the military balance of power had dramatically changed in the American's favor.

Truman let his Russian counterpart know in Potsdam that the U.S. had developed a new secret weapon without offering details. Days before their meeting, the U.S. had successfully tested the atomic bomb.

If D-Day had failed, and the Soviets were deep into western Europe by war's end, Truman could have used the threat of a nuclear attack to force Stalin back.

Truman would soon show a willingness to deploy his secret weapon.

During the Potsdam meeting, it was agreed that the Soviets would join the war against Japan, with an invasion date of Aug. 15. But Truman, perhaps leery about the Russians gaining a foothold in the Pacific and eager to send a message to Stalin about overreaching in Europe, ordered a nuclear strike shortly before the Soviets were to join the fight.

On Aug. 6, the U.S. dropped the first of two nuclear bombs on Japan, which brought an end to the war there and marked the start of the Cold War. Four years later, the Soviets had a nuclear bomb of their own.

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An American soldier lies dead June 6, 1944, on Omaha Beach.

U.S. Coast Guard/National Archives

England's biggest little port in the world'

By WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

Soft sandy beaches, fish-and-chips shops and tourist boat tours now occupy the Dorset seaside that played a key role in moving almost half a million Allied troops to France 75 years ago on D-Day.

American troops arrived in Dorset in the summer of 1943 from Africa and Sicily and basically took over the county. They spent almost a year training for the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during World War II.

"The local community had sort of been starving and putting up with rationing for years and years and then there's all these Americans with their K-rations and all this wealth," said Steve George, co-founder and curator of the Castletown D-Day Centre. "We've interviewed lots of people and what they all say is how generous the Americans were when they were here."

Huge camps were created overnight, roads were paved and straightened, embarkation docks were built all over the harbor and parking lots went up along the roads. Some of that infrastructure is still used today.

Mounting an operation on the scale of D-Day required months of intense planning and practice with live ammunition.

On April 18, 1944, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, King George VI and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower met at Fort Henry, an observation bunker

in Dorset overlooking Studland Bay, to watch the combined power of the Allied Forces preparing for D-Day. The concrete bunker had 90-foot-long walls and a 3-foot-thick ceiling and remains intact to this day as part of Studland Beach Second World War walk.

Operation Overlord then saw 144,093 vehicles and 415,585 troops embark from harbors in Dorset to beaches in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division, known as The Big Red One, went to Omaha Beach as one of the first assault groups to leave from Weymouth and Portland. They called Portland "the biggest little port in the world."

British and American troops, personnel from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Poland all took part in the Normandy landings.

The American Stone of Remembrance was unveiled in Dorset in August 1945, overlooking the Portland harbor from a nearby hillside and marking the route troops used to their points of embarkation.

"It doesn't matter what time of year it is, flowers appear on the American Stone just because of the impact the Americans had during the war," George said. "The bonds that were made, friendships were forged which are still never forgotten to this day."

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Dorset and D-Day

Dorset played a key role in the preparations and launch of the Allied Forces' invasion of northern France. The harbors of Weymouth and Portland were among the biggest departure points for U.S. troops.



BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes/TNS



Above: People walk on May 12 along a route Allied troops followed on D-Day to embarkation points at Weymouth harbor in Dorset, England. On D-Day, 144,093 vehicles and 415,585 troops embarked from harbors in Dorset to beaches in Normandy.

WILLIAM HOWARD/Stars and Stripes

Below: The last roll call for the men before they board landing craft for the big assault on the European continent in June 1944.

Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives



D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

'Why did America give their young men for us?'

Captured by the US, German vet says invasion changed his life for the better

By JENNIFER H. SVAN AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

Paul Golz was a 19-year-old German private when he was captured by the Americans in a Normandy field, three days after the D-Day invasion.

Golz says it was a stroke of luck that changed the trajectory of his life.

Being a prisoner of war in America for two years beat being a soldier in Germany, where Golz had avoided the hellish eastern front and refused to join the Waffen-SS, which after World War II was deemed a criminal organization for its atrocities.

As a POW in America, Golz tasted his first Coca-Cola, met comedian Red Skelton, watched Mickey Mouse at the cinema and heard jazz music for the first time. Along the way, he learned English, a skill that led him to a long career with the German foreign service.

The invasion ultimately changed his life for the better, Golz said. "Otherwise I was a poor farmer's boy. I have seen another life. I've always had a good guardian angel all of my life."

Golz returned to Normandy for the first time since the war in 2014 and hopes to go back for the 75th anniversary of the invasion that turned the tide of WWII and helped the Allies win.

Now 94 with white hair and piercing blue eyes, Golz lately has been asked to tell his war story more often. War veterans are dying off quickly and Golz is an eyewitness to the historic battle from the other side of the shores of Normandy.

Golz almost didn't make it to Normandy in June 1944. An ammunition runner in the German Wehrmacht, Golz's unit was sent to Russia to fight in January 1944. But Golz got very sick, sidelined until the end of March.

"Everyone was dead," Golz said, of the 50 soldiers in his company sent to fight in Russia.

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany



"My guardian angel had given me diphtheria and scarlet fever."

On April 4, 1944, Golz's 19th birthday, he was sent to Baumholder and assigned to a machine gun team with the 91st Air Infantry Division.

From there, they walked more than 500 miles to help defend the French harbor of Saint-Nazaire. When the Allies never came there, Golz's team was ordered to Normandy. At Cherbourg's heights, Golz helped place "Rommel's asparagus"—logs driven into the ground and connected with barbed wire to snare Allied gliders and paratroopers.

The Americans have landed

On the morning of the invasion, Golz was near Carentan, where at about 6 a.m., he went to a local farmer for milk.

"He knew me," Golz said of the French farmer. "Every morning I went to him to get milk."

But the farmer said, "Hey, listen, get out, get out! The Americans have landed already with tanks," Golz said. "He heard it on the radio."

Golz's team was sent to the fight, toward Sainte-Mere-Eglise, the first village in Normandy liberated by the Allies.



Photos courtesy of Paul Golz

German World War II veteran Paul Golz, pictured as a boy with his family, above, and as a young soldier, at left. Golz says fighting in the war and his subsequent capture by the Americans at Normandy changed the course of his life. The son of a poor farmer, Golz learned English and went on to work in the German foreign service.



NODA AM-RW/Stars and Stripes

out a wallet. Inside was a photo of a woman. Schneider then tried to pry a gold ring off the American's finger but could not get it off.

He said he was going to cut the finger off. Golz said he told him, "If you cut the finger, I blow you away."

As they continued, Golz and his fellow soldiers spent more time hunkered down in ditches than on the road because of constant air attacks. U.S. warplanes made strafing runs so low to the ground that Golz could see pilots' faces.

But he wasn't scared, he said. "It was a new situation for us. What shall happen now?" At such a young age, he said, one doesn't think about dying.

Three days after the invasion, Golz and his team of four were supposed to cover his company's withdrawal. After firing at a column of American trucks, the Germans hid in old foxholes. Golz looked up to see their only escape route at the pasture entrance blocked by an American Sherman tank.

SEE VET ON PAGE 31



More coverage online

STRIPES.COM/DDAY

● Then and now: Check out photographs from along the Dorset coast in England from before the invasion and now.

● Some who fought at D-Day went on to fame.

Plus: Photos and front pages from the time, from the Stars and Stripes archives.

Also: Go to stripes.com for coverage of memorial events from Normandy, France, on June 4-7.

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Vet: Golz spent 2 years as a POW in Va.

FROM PAGE 30

"Hey, boys, come on. Hands up," the Americans shouted, as they came into the pasture.

The Americans searched the prisoners and found the wallet Schneider took. A soldier hit Schneider with the butt of his rifle, Golz said.

"If he (the American soldier) had found the finger, he (Schneider) probably would have been shot, so I was his guardian angel for him," Golz said.

A first meal

After being marshaled up by the Americans, Golz walked by scores of wounded Germans and their desperate cries of "comrade, help me."

"So much for a hero's death," Golz remembers thinking at the time.

They walked several hours to Utah Beach, where thousands of ships and landing boats dotted the coastline, and then boarded a British transport ship. After days of no food and water, Golz and his fellow prisoners were treated to a "first meal" in the ship's mess of sausages, mashed potatoes, white bread and a cup of coffee.

It did little to curb their hunger.

The prisoners queued a second and third time. Finally, the mess officer yelled: "What the hell is going on here? We only have 800 German prisoners on board and 8,000 have eaten!"

From England, Golz traveled by train to Scotland, and then, along with about 2,000 German POWs, by the Queen Mary liner to America.

Confronting the past

Golz spent two years at Camp Patrick Henry, where he had "a good time" as a POW in Newports, Va.

He worked in the kitchen and grew vegetables in the garden. He learned how to bowl, listened to radio shows, mowed the lawn, played football and made friends with Americans.

But Golz and the other Germans were also confronted with reality of Nazi crimes against humanity when the camp showed the movie "Factories of Death" about the concentration



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

German World War II veteran Paul Golz reflects on his time fighting at Normandy while at home in Pleiserhohn, Germany, on April 23. In June 1944, Golz was a 19-year-old private when he was captured by the Americans three days after D-Day.

champs.

Golz said that after the movie was shown to the prisoners, they were punished and given only bread and water for a week.

Golz was sent to Scotland to rebuild roads in 1946 and returned to Germany the next year as a free man. It was difficult to find work, but the English he learned helped him when he applied for a job with the German foreign service. Over the years, he was stationed in Madagascar, Nigeria and Togo, but never made it back to the U.S.

Now, 75 years after D-Day, Golz lives in Pleiserhohn, a rural district of Koenigs Wusterhausen, about 12 miles east of the former West German

ny's capital city of Bonn. Golz briefly reflected on the upcoming anniversary of D-Day.

"So many died on 6th of June. Why did America give their young men for us?" Golz asked. From his point of view, America's victory freed Germany from the Nazi regime.

But Golz is not a man who lives in his past. He follows political news on TV and thinks about the world we are living in now. To "keep peace and democracy" is important, he said.

"No one can do anything alone in the world anymore. We need each other."

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The collage illustrates the comprehensive nature of the Stars and Stripes website, covering a wide range of military news and information. It includes sections for Veterans, Branches, Pacific Travel, Europe Sports, and other areas like News Videos and Heroics. The website's navigation bar and search function are also visible.

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Frazz

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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54	Buddy						20 Ham's dad			
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	58 Property claims						27 Baseball execs			
	59 Chopper						29 Fencing sword			
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ACROSS

- 1 Chewable stick
4 Parisian river
9 Chaney of horror films
12 Links org.
13 Leek's kin
14 Rage
15 Food's freshness period
17 Hardly any
18 Call — day
19 Papa Hemingway
21 Boot camp reply
24 Swelled heads
25 Curator's concern
26 Mayo ingredient
28 "Bullitt" director Peter
31 Leeway
33 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
35 Inspiration
36 Rapper's headgear
38 "Chandelier" singer
40 Stumpy's pal
41 Christmas
43 Aged, in a way
45 As a whole
46 Perch
48 Zodiac feline
50 Novel storage area?
- DOWN**
- 1 Family docs
2 "Yeech!"
3 Actress West
4 Sentimental sort
5 Blow up
6 Sundial numeral
7 Type of checking
8 Vigor
9 Biography
10 Raw materials
11 Salamander
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6-3

CRYPTOQUIP

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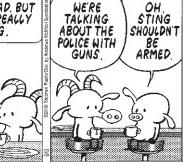
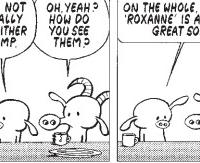
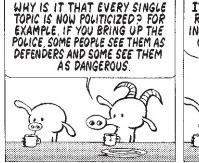
Saturday's Cryptoquip: I COULDN'T THINK OF THE NAME OF A FAMILIAR BASIC CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE. I HAD AN ELEMENTAL BLOCK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

Dilbert



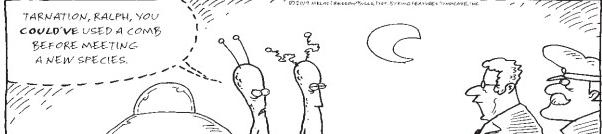
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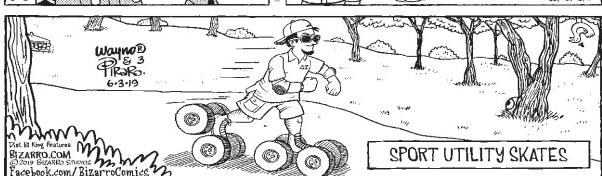
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



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stripes.com**OPINION****Trump could help himself by staying on task**

BY KAREN TUMULTY

The Washington Post

As President Donald Trump seeks to shut down multiple congressional probes, he has been making the argument that the continued scrutiny is getting in the way of the country's most pressing business: "I've been from the beginning — right from the beginning — tell you probably can't go down two tracks," the president ranted after stomping out of a May 22 meeting with congressional leaders that was ostensibly scheduled to discuss infrastructure. "You can go down the investigation track, and you can go down the investment track or this track of let's get things done for the American people."

But in fact Congress is quite capable of focusing on issues that are at the top of Americans' priority list, even while conducting vigorous oversight. In fact, that is what it is supposed to do.

The Democratic-controlled House has been passing bills at a good clip, even as no fewer than six of its committees are investigating various questions involving the president and his administration. They include measures to lower prescription drug costs and strengthen the Affordable Care Act and to encourage more employers to offer retirement plans. House Democrats have also voted to strengthen background checks of gun buyers, reduce the gender pay disparity and reauthorize the landmark 1994 Violence Against Women Act.

Meanwhile, none of these issues — or much of anything else — is being addressed in the Republican-led Senate. The only business that seems to interest

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is confirming Trump's nominees, particularly to the courts: So far in this Congress, nominations constitute more than 70% of all Senate floor votes.

Getting things done may be Trump's best hope of survival — as the last president who found himself in the impeachment crosshairs demonstrated. In 1998, as Bill Clinton's presidency became engulfed in scandal surrounding his affair with a White House intern, his mastery of what was then called "compartmentalization" was tested. Day in and day out, Clinton made sure Americans saw a functioning presidency.

He and lawmakers agreed on legislation to provide \$1.2 billion to reduce elementary school class sizes, which was something Clinton had promised in a State of the Union address delivered just days after the nation had heard the name Monica Lewinsky for the first time. Republicans had initially been reluctant to fund Clinton's program, but climbed aboard as he drummed up public support.

Clinton also worked with then-Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on a bipartisan anti-tobacco bill that won the support of 13 other Republicans and fell just short of breaking a filibuster in the Senate after a four-week debate.

While Clinton raged in private about his treatment at the hands of independent counsel Kenneth Starr and the Republicans who controlled Capitol Hill, he deflected questions about the subject as he went about his business in public. All of it paid off in steadily rising poll numbers.

He could not prevent the investigation

from going forward, or Congress from trying to remove him from office. In December 1998, the House voted two articles of impeachment against him, for perjury and for obstruction of justice. But that very week, Clinton's job approval in the Gallup poll reached 73% — not only the highest of his presidency, but among the best recorded by any chief executive since the mid-1960s. By then, it had become clear that the charges against him would not stick in the Senate, which just under eight weeks later acquitted him.

By doing his job, Clinton saved his presidency.

Even in this polarized environment, there are still opportunities for Trump to do the same.

A big push to rebuild the nation's infrastructure may be off the table, as much because of Republican opposition to the price tag as Democratic resistance. But many in both parties are eager for deals on some issues, such as cutting prescription drug prices and getting a disaster-relief bill passed. If there is not a budget agreement by Oct. 1, deep automatic spending cuts will hit both defense and defense discretionary programs.

Doing any of that, however, requires something we have yet to see from Trump — an ability to focus on his job, rather than nursing his outsized sense of victimhood with incessant tweets about "The Greatest Presidential Harassment in history." The investigations are going to continue. Whether anything else gets done is entirely up to Trump.

Karen Tumulty is a Washington Post columnist covering national politics.

America's pressure strategy on Iran is backfiringBY JOHN DALE GROVER
Special to Stars and Stripes

During an interview about Iran on May 19, President Donald Trump said, "I just don't want them to have nuclear weapons and they can't be threatening us." But Trump also said, "I'm not somebody who wants to go into war. War hurts economies, war kills people." He then drew a parallel to North Korea and how nuclear and intercontinental-ballistic missile tests were being suspended after his summitry with Pyongyang. One can hope Trump intends to repeat his playbook with North Korea of ultimately using diplomacy rather than threats and force.

The problem is that Washington's pressure campaign against Iran is backfiring and may lead to war or even a nuclear Iran.

President Barack Obama bought the end of Iran's nuclear program by paying for it with sanctions relief — then Trump canceled the check. After a year of complying with the Iran Deal and enduring reimposed U.S. economic sanctions, Tehran announced on May 8 that in 60 days it might start to enrich uranium beyond the limits of the deal. Iran said it would have no choice if the country still in the Iran Deal could not find a way to trade with Iran and help keep it afloat despite U.S. sanctions. Since then, America has decided to withdraw nonemergency personnel and their dependents out of Iraq, and the Pentagon was told to plan to deploy 120,000 troops if a crisis develops.

America's approach is failing because it leaves no room for maneuver or negotiation. Iran faces general inflation of 48 percent, with food prices at 73 percent inflation. Tehran faces the most powerful country on Earth and, while costly and horrendous compared with Iraq, America could attack Iran's regime. To deter a U.S. attack, Iran could consider becoming a nuclear power like North Korea.

Maximum pressure makes Iranian hardliners look like they were right all along. From Iran's point of view, the Iran Deal was a chance to avoid war, gain breathing space and test America's commitment to its international agreements. The deal let Iranians regain access to the international financial system, trade with the world and export oil. That made life easier for millions of Iranians and, in return, they opened up to inspectors and got rid of most of their nuclear program. Sites were demolished, two-thirds of their centrifuges were dismantled, and all but 2 percent of their uranium stockpile was handed to Russia.

However, in May 2018, Washington reinstated oil sanctions and in November withdrew from the Iran Deal. That was done even though Iran was still compliant with the deal. What is remarkable is that, according to the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran remained compliant with the deal anyway, hoping to convince Europe, Russia and China to make up for America's broken promise of trade and prosperity. Unfortunately, facing increasing pressure, on May 20 Tehran partially withdrew from the deal by making more enriched uranium — but it is keeping enrichment levels far below weapons grade out of hope for talks.

Yet America's continuous pressure campaign and military threats may in the end convince Iran to fully withdraw and seek a nuclear deterrent. Such a calamity would negate the purpose of the Iran Deal and U.S. pressure to begin with. If Iran fully left the agreement, it would be used as a pretext to further tighten the screws of take military action. Moreover, even if Iran does not resume weapons grade levels of enrichment come early July, there is now a higher chance of a crisis or war anyway.

Current American policies are pushing Iran into doing the very things Washington does not want, and the risk of an unneces-

sary war is rising — this is the opposite of Trump's stated intent, so it is high time to reevaluate his administration's policy.

Maximum pressure has not and will not change Iran's behavior. The Iran Deal took two years and a lot of mutual confidence building to negotiate and implement — the idea that in the current environment of mistrust and tension Tehran will give in to greater demands is absurd.

Nuclear proliferation control requires deterrence, negotiation, rollback, freezes and step-by-step agreements, not preventive strikes and war. Iran's decision to partially abandon the nuclear deal should show Tehran is now seriously concerned it may come under attack from America in the near future. If this is true, then Iran would want nothing less than the ultimate deterrent to prevent it.

Trump has said he doesn't want a war or a nuclear Iran, and that is good. He said multiple times he wants to talk to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and work out a deal. The irony is both Trump and Rouhani face hawkish hardliner advisers and cabinet members who do not want either side to budge and return to the negotiating table first. Rouhani managed to stall announcing any changes to Iran's status within the nuclear deal for a year, but due to mounting U.S. pressure and domestic politics, he had to respond.

Every time America raises the heat, Iran grows more desperate and more likely to use its proxies to inflict harm or resume its nuclear activities.

American voters elected Trump in part because he was against "endless wars" in the Middle East. Now is the chance for Trump to prove he will follow his instincts to avoid "dumb wars" and change course.

John Dale Grover is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a senior contributor for Young Voices.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Alligator breaks into home through window

FL ORLANDO — Those home at a Clearwater residence received a shock when a large alligator broke into the house and toppled furniture early Friday morning, according to a tweet by the City of Clearwater.

The 11-foot alligator aggressively broke into the Eagles Landing Circle West home during the night through a low window in the kitchen, shattering the glass.

The large gator began causing a loud ruckus and toppled stools in the kitchen.

The Clearwater Police Department responded to the scene with an alligator trapper, who captured the animal and took it away.

Old steam engine runs again after 40 years

PA BETHLEHEM — A century-old steam engine has been put on display at Pennsylvania's National Museum of Industrial History after workers got it running again for the first time in nearly four decades.

The 115-ton Corliss engine once pumped 8 million gallons of water a day for the York Water Co. in York. It's now a showpiece at the industrial history museum in Bethlehem, which has spent the last 10 years restoring it.

Museum officials began running the engine for the public for the first time Friday and scheduled a variety of special programs throughout the weekend.

15-foot python escapes truck, remains at large

WV MORGANTOWN — Authorities said a 15-foot python is on the loose in West Virginia.

Morgantown Police said the python slithered out of a truck and escaped into the woods as a man was transporting it late Thursday.

Police are asking residents to pay close attention to children and small pets while outdoors.

Police: More than \$1M in drugs washes ashore

AL ORANGE BEACH — Police are investigating after more than \$1 million worth of marijuana and cocaine washed ashore here.

Orange Beach police told WALA-TV that beachgoers found the drugs last month.

One package contained 21 pounds of marijuana and one kilogram of cocaine. Another bundle contained 38 kilograms of cocaine.

Orange Beach is on the Gulf of Mexico about 50 miles southeast of Mobile, Ala.

San Diego County missing a fire engine

CA SAN DIEGO — San Diego County's Fire Authority has filed a stolen vehicle report with the Sheriff's Department over a missing fire engine.



JAMES QUIGG, THE (VICTORVILLE, CALIF.) DAILY PRESS/AP

Pop goes the school year

Students in a sixth grade class at Desert Knolls Elementary set off fountains of diet cola and Mentos to conclude their school year in Apple Valley, Calif., on Thursday.

THE CENSUS

7

The number of felony counts a North Dakota man is facing in connection with the theft of cattle. Investigators said Steven Weinberger, of Biren, N.D., is accused of stealing 22 animals and selling them independently to other ranchers who eventually sold the cattle at livestock barns. Weinberger's preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 1.

The San Diego Union-Tribune said the \$300,000 engine was based at a station staffed by members of the Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Protection District.

The district was the county's last volunteer fire department. It was dissolved in April and the Fire Authority took over but volunteers are challenging the move on court.

When the county inspected the Cuyamaca station, the fire engine was missing. It wasn't at the main station in Julian, either. That's where volunteers have holed up, refusing to surrender the property during the court challenge.

Woman reunited with dog after 5 years

KY ELIZABETHTOWN — A woman who lost her two Jack Russell terriers five years ago has been reunited with them.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported that Janeece Parsons got a call Tuesday that said her

dog Army had been found safe and was identified through a microchip.

Parsons and her family picked up the 16-year-old deaf dog from the Hardin County Animal Shelter in Elizabethtown just as the shelter opened the next day.

Parsons said she was visiting Hardin County in 2014 when the dogs vanished, likely scared off by a nearby shooting range. She said Army and the still-missing Leia weren't found despite a door-to-door search.

Police: Wanted man found in trunk of car

PA MANHEIM — Police said a man found in the trunk of a car that arrived for sale at a Pennsylvania auto auction is wanted in New York.

LNP newspaper reported Leon Parks, 25, of New York City, is wanted for parole violations and on weapons charges.

Workers processing the vehicle at the Manheim Auto Auction

facility found him inside. The facility is about 90 miles west of Philadelphia.

Police said they used fingerprints to identify Parks, who was treated at a hospital before being taken to jail to await extradition.

Ex-guide banned from hunting for poaching

MT BILLINGS — A 23-year-old hunting guide has received a lifetime suspension of his hunting, fishing and trapping rights for poaching multiple trophy big game animals in 2017.

The Billings Gazette reported Brandon K. Schuhem, 23, was also ordered Friday by District Judge Don Harris to complete 500 hours of community service for a wildlife conservation organization, serve 10 years of probation and pay \$33,050 in restitution to the state of Montana.

Harris said one of the things that disturbed him about the case was that the killed animals were mostly left to waste.

Ban on food trucks near restaurants upheld

MD BALTIMORE — A Maryland judge is again ordering food truck operators to stay away from Baltimore's

restaurants.

Multiple media organizations reported state Court of Special Appeals Judge Douglas R.M. Nazarian on Thursday overturned a lower court's ruling that declared the ban too vague to enforce.

The decision means mobile food vendors must park at least 300 feet from a restaurant or face \$500 fines and the loss of their licenses.

1 arrested, second man sought in thefts

LA SLIDELL — One man was arrested in Texas and another suspect is being sought following last month's theft of tires and wheels valued at about \$120,000 from a Louisiana car dealership.

The theft of 124 tires and wheels from 31 vehicles happened at Matt Bowers Chevrolet in Slidell. The Slidell Police Department said the evidence led detectives to Houston, where two suspects were identified.

Police said Wednesday that Eric Summage, 39, of Humble was arrested in Texas. Police are searching for Riley Richardson, 44, of Houston. More arrests are expected in connection with what Slidell Police described as a professional theft ring.

From wire reports

FACES

'FEAR' factor



AMC photos

Lennie James, left, plays Morgan Jones and Austin Amelio, right, is Dwight in "Fear The Walking Dead."

Actor Lennie James explains the difficult dynamics as second 'Walking Dead' cast member jumps to spin-off

By GINA SALAMONE
New York Daily News

The Walking Dead" universe is expanding — and shrinking — at the same time.

With a third series and three TV movies on the horizon, spin-off "Fear the Walking Dead" returns Monday on A&E-Spectrum, and a second character from the main zombie apocalypse show will soon cross over.

Austin Amelio, who played villain-turned-double agent Dwight on "The Walking Dead," is moving to "Fear," which launches its fifth season. He joins Lennie James, whose Morgan came aboard the spin-off last season.

Though the actors had become pals in real life, there was some confusion over how Morgan and Dwight would react to meeting in "Fear" — and not just because the characters had belonged to opposing groups that were once mortal enemies. As it turned out, they'd never actually interacted on "The Walking Dead."

"We had been in scenes together but our characters had never spoken, which is very interesting," James tells the Daily News. "Myself and Austin got together and sat down and plotted out our mutual histories

and what we might have known about each other. We never interacted."

Fans of "The Walking Dead," inspired by the comic books of the same name, first met Morgan in the series premiere in 2010. He helped out main protagonist Rick Grimes, then joined his group in later seasons.

Dwight was introduced in the main show's Season 6 as a member of the villainous group

The Saviors, led by Negan. Dwight resented Negan for sleeping with his wife Sherry and for his general abusiveness, so he secretly turned on him and aided Rick's group.

We last saw Dwight heading off to find Sherry after a member of Rick's group spared his life, but insisted he leave and never return to that area of the southeast. He'll presumably meet up with Morgan on "Fear" farther west, where the spin-off is set.

"I think because of the battle with Negan and the role that Dwight played in that, Morgan would have been privy to some of the subterfuge that was going on there," James said. "We had been in maybe two scenes, but they were huge battle scenes or crossing paths. We kept trying to find someplace where we could be or shook hands or were in the same room together, and there just wasn't. So it was really exciting when that happened over here."

"We had to talk it through because some of the things we just had to take on assumption because we never actually saw them," he adds. "Morgan might have been privy to the fact that Dwight was sent away. He might not have, so we have to make those decisions for ourselves."

Morgan, who lost his wife and son to zombies on "The Walking Dead," has struggled with mental health, at times wanting to kill all of his enemies and at other times, refusing to kill anyone in the brutal world.

This season of "Fear" sees him going out of his way to help strangers. "We're going to see what kind of leader Morgan might turn out to be or might not turn out to be," James said, "how much responsibility he's able to take on but also what responsibility for other people he's able to take on and what the price of that might be for him."

"A lot of that journey to helping people, for not just Morgan, is an attempt to try and heal yourself," James added. "He's very open about the fact that his helping other people isn't just a benevolent act. It's also about feeling like it's possible to make up for some of the things he's done in the past."

British-born James, 53, has also starred in the BBC police show "Line of Duty" and the 2017 sci-fi film "Blade Runner 2049."

'Pet Sematary' star Leo the Cat dies

New York Daily News

The glaring feline who spooked audience members and horror-lovers with his performance in the 1983 "Pet Sematary" remake has died just more than a month after the film's release.

Leo the Cat's death was confirmed on Instagram on May 29 by animal trainer Kirk Jarrett, who adopted the fluffy Maine Coon shortly after filming wrapped on the Stephen King thriller.

"It is with great sadness that we tell you that Leo has passed away," Jarrett wrote on cat's social media account, which has nearly 17,000 followers. "He will be forever missed by his human and fur family. May his star always shine bright!!"

Leo was one of four Maine Coons to play the central cat character, Church, in the flick.

Both he and another feline named Tonic were the primary feline actors on set, with the former mostly playing the living version of Church while Leo starred as the undead resurrection.

The "Pet Sematary" movie poster also features a spooky-looking Leo, who is sporting his signature scowl.

"Leo is a confident sit-stay cat. His role is as the undead Church; that was his whole purpose, to be the poster child. The cat you see across all platforms and in the trailer, almost any time he's in the undead makeup — that was Leo," Jarrett said.

Leo made his debut in the 2019 flick, which is the second adaptation of Stephen King's 1983 novel, which follows a family after they stumble upon a mysterious graveyard that brings back the dead.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/TNS

Church the cat took on the undead feline duties in this year's "Pet Sematary."

Ronnie James Dio hologram on tour

Images of explosions, fire and dragons stream across a massive digital screen set behind a band playing the opening chords of Dio's "King of Rock and Roll."

Then flames appear, transforming into an image familiar to fans of hard rock/heavy metal music: the diminutive figure of Ronnie James Dio.

The singer died nine years ago, but advances in hologram technology have made it possible for fans to watch him perform and hear his voice with a live band in the "Dio Returns" tour.

The tour, which started May 31 in Ft. Myers, Fla., includes a lineup of former Dio band members and special guest vocalists playing a variety of Dio's songs. The Dio hologram will perform on eight songs, with former Judas Priest singer Tim "Ripper" Owens and Lynyrd Skynyrd's Ron Logan handling the rest during the 90-minute show.

Guitarist Craig Goldsmith, drummer Simon Wright and keyboardist Scott Warren — all previous Dio members — will be joined by bass player Bjorn Englen on the 18-city tour that may extend after the initial run.

"It's something that we want to do for the fans that never got to see Ronnie and the band or want to see them again," Dio's widow, Wendy, said. "This is a show, bringing Ronnie back and the memories, but also the band."

Dio, who had one of the most recognizable voices in hard rock, died from stomach cancer at 67 in 2010.

Other news

■ Entertainer Kenny Rogers has been admitted to a Georgia hospital for dehydration, according to his official Twitter account. A statement posted May 31 said he would remain there for physical therapy to "get his strength back" before being discharged. The statement said the 80-year-old singer and actor appreciated the well wishes from fans and wanted to assure everyone that "he plans on sticking around through the years to come."

■ Police in suburban Atlanta have dropped a felony charge against rapper Offset, who was accused of knocking a cellphone out of a fan's hands. The property damage charge stemmed from an April incident at a Target, where 18-year-old Junior Gibbons said his \$800 iPhone was destroyed after he tried to film the Migos member.

■ Reality TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi has welcomed her third child. The "Jersey Shore" cast member tells People magazine she gave birth May 30 to a boy named Angelo James LaValle. He weighs 7½ pounds, Polizzi, 31, and husband Jionni LaValle were already parents of a boy, 6, and a girl, 4.

■ Leon Redbone, the blues and jazz artist whose growly voice, Panama hat and cultivated air of mystery made him seem like a character out of the ragtime era or the Depression-era Mississippi Delta, died May 30. He was 69.

From The Associated Press



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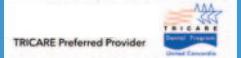
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COLLEGE BASEBALL

Scoreboard

NCAA Division I regionals

Double Elimination, x-1 necessary
At Oxford, Miss., Saturday's game

Texas A&M 11, Fordham 2, Fordham eliminated
Duke 4, West Virginia 0
Sunday's games
Game 5 — Texas A&M (38-22) vs. West Virginia (38-21)
Game 6 — Duke (33-25) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game
x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Chapel Hill, N.C.
Saturday's games

Tennessee 10, North Carolina 3, UNC eliminated

North Carolina 16, Liberty 1
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Tennessee (39-20) vs. Liberty (30-22)
Game 6 — North Carolina (44-17) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Greenville, N.C.
Saturday's games

Campbell 5, N.C. State 4, completion

Quinnipiac 5, East Carolina 4
Sunday's games

Game 3 — N.C. State (42-18) vs. East Carolina (42-15)
Campbell (36-19) vs. Quinnipiac (30-24)

Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser

Mondays' games

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

TBA — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, TBA

At Louisville, Ky.
Saturday's games

Indiana 9, UIC 5, UIC eliminated

Illinois State 10, Indiana 2
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Indiana (37-22) vs. Louisville (37-22)
Game 6 — Illinois State (36-24) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Athens, Ga.
Saturday's games

FAU 10, Mercer 6, Mercer eliminated

Florida State 10, FAU 2
Sunday's games

Game 5 — FAU (41-20) vs. Georgia (45-16)

Game 6 — Florida State (38-21) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Atlanta
Saturday's games

Coastal Carolina 9, Florida A&M 4, FAMU eliminated

Auburn 6, Georgia Tech 5
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Coastal Carolina (36-25) vs. Georgia Tech (42-18)

Game 6 — Auburn (35-25), vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Nashville, Tenn.
Saturday's games

Ohio State 9, McNeese 8, 13 innnings, McNeese eliminated

Vanderbilt 5, Indiana State 5
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Ohio State (36-26) vs. Indiana State (36-25)

Game 6 — Vanderbilt (51-10) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Starkville, Miss.
Saturday's games

Mississippi 12, Southern 2, SU eliminated

Mississippi State 10, Central Michigan 2
Sunday's game

Game 5 — Miami (40-19) vs. Central Michigan (47-13)

Game 6 — Mississippi State (48-13), vs. Game 5 winner

Monday's game
x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Oxford, Miss.
Saturday's games

Jacksonville State 7, Illinois 5, Illinois eliminated

Mississippi 1, Clemson 1
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Jacksonville State (38-22) vs. Clemson (35-21)

Game 6 — Mississippi (39-25) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Fayetteville, Ark.
Saturday's games

CCSU 7, Arkansas 6, Cal eliminated

Arkansas 3, TCU 1
Sunday's games

Game 5 — CCSU (31-22) vs. TCU (33-27)

Game 6 — Arkansas (43-17) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Baton Rouge, La.
Saturday's games

Arizona State 10, LSU 9, LSU eliminated

LSU 8, Southern Miss. 4
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Arizona State (38-18) vs. Southern Miss (30-24)

Game 6 — LSU (39-24) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Oklahoma City
Saturday's games

UConn 10, Harvard 2, Harvard eliminated

Oklahoma State 6, Nebraska 5
Sunday's games

Game 5 — UConn (37-24) vs. Nebraska (32-33)

Game 6 — Oklahoma State (38-18) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Oklahoma State (38-18) vs. Game 5 winner

At Lubbock, Texas
Saturday's games

Florida 10, Texas Tech 9, Texas Tech eliminated

Texas Tech 3 vs. Dallas Baptist 2
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Florida (34-25) vs. Dallas Baptist (42-12)

Game 6 — Texas Tech (41-17) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

At Corvallis, Ore.
Saturday's games

Craighead 4, Oregon State 1, OSU eliminated

Michigan 10, Oregon 4
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Craighead (39-12) vs. Cincinnati (31-30)

Game 6 — Michigan (43-18) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Michigan (43-18) vs. Game 5 winner

At San Jose, Calif.
Saturday's games

Sacramento State 6, UC Santa Barbara 4, UCSB eliminated

UCSB 1, Stanford 2
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Stanford (42-14) vs. (20-24)

Game 6 — Fresno State (40-14-1) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Fresno State (40-14-1), vs. Game 5 winner

At Los Angeles
Saturday's games

Baylor 24, Omaha 6, Omaha eliminated

Loyola Marymount 3, UCLA 2
Sunday's games

Game 5 — Baylor (35-17), vs. UCLA (48-9)

Game 6 — Loyola Marymount (34-23) vs. Game 5 winner

Mondays' game

x-Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner

NCAA Regionals roundup

Champion Beavers ousted

By ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

The second day of NCAA regionals brought an early exit for the defending national champion, one of the greatest individual performances in tournament history and an upset of No. 1 national seed UCLA.

Oregon State was eliminated on its home field with a 4-1 loss to Big East champion Creighton on Saturday, marking the first time the Beavers have gone 0-2 in regionals in 14 appearances since 1985. They were knocked out in the regional round for the first time since 2015.

"It was a matter of us not playing good baseball. That's the bottom line," OSU interim coach Pat Bailey said.

The Beavers lost 10 of their last 15 games and finished 36-20-1 a season after they completed a two-year run in which they won 111 of 130 games under former coach Pat Casey.

The game was catcher Adley Rutschman's last for Oregon State. Rutschman is projected to be the No. 1 pick in the Major League Baseball draft on Monday. He was on deck when the Bluejays turned the game-ending double play. He had driven a ball to the right field in his last at-bat and tipped his cap to the crowd as he jogged back to the dugout.

Baylor's Shea Langeliers hit three home runs and doubled while going 5-for-6 and driving in a tournament-record 11 runs in a 24-6 win over Omaha in an elimination game.

"When I was a little kid, I liked to think I was a pretty good hitter, but I think this game will probably be one of the most meaningful games for me as a hitter probably for the rest of my career," Langeliers said. "Our backs were up against the wall and we needed a big game from our offense and we got it. It was a lot of fun."

Langeliers, who likely will be the second catcher drafted by Rutschman, broke the NCAA postseason record of 10 RBIs in a game shared by Vanderbilt's Connor Kaiser (2018) and Miami's



WILLIAM WOTRING, THE DOMINION-POST/AP

West Virginia's Tyler Doanes, right, is chased by Duke's Joey Loperido before eventually being tagged out on Saturday in Morgantown, W.Va. Duke won 4-0.

Kevin Brown (2001).

Langeliers' homers were for two, one and three runs. He also had a two-run single and three-run double.

Hours after Langeliers' big performance, Loyola Marymount beat UCLA 3-2 on the same field in Los Angeles. The Lions lost twice to the Bruins in the regular season and had dropped seven in a row against them.

Cooper Uhl, LMU's 9-hole batter, sent a run-scoring single into right field in the seventh inning to break a 2-2 tie. Nick Frasso earned his second save in two days, striking out three in two shutout innings.

UCLA had its 11-game win streak end and must beat Baylor in an elimination game to get a rematch with the Lions in the regional final Sunday night.

He did it again

Down to his last strike with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Steven Williams hit a three-run homer to give Auburn a 6-5 walk-off win over Georgia Tech. Williams, the Tigers' 8-hole hitter, homered and drove in five runs Friday against Coastal Carolina.

He did it again, too

Florida State's Tim Becker, the

graduate student who walked on after playing three seasons on the school's club team, homered for the third time in two games in a 12-3 win over Georgia Tech.

FSU is 1-1 away from super regionals in Mike Martin's 40th and final season.

That's Quinnipiac, Mac

No. 4 regional seed Quinnipiac upset East Carolina 5-4 in a first-round game postponed until Saturday. The Bobcats of Hamden, Conn., play third-seeded Campbell in a winners' bracket game Sunday. Quinnipiac went 0-2 in its only previous tournament appearance in 2005.

Big bats

■ Trevor Boone's go-ahead three-run homer with two outs in the top of the ninth inning completed Oklahoma State's rally in a 6-5 win over Nebraska.

■ Emilio Nogales had three hits and three RBIs to lead Fresno State past Stanford 7-2.

■ Bobby Morgenstern hit two homers for the second straight day, leading Florida Atlantic in a 10-6 win over Mercer.

■ Hunter Coleman homered twice and drove in five runs in Texas A&M's 11-2 win over Fordham.

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Minnesota	35	19	.684	—
Cleveland	29	29	.500	10%
Chicago	29	29	.500	10%
Detroit	22	33	.440	10%
Kansas City	19	39	.328	20%
West Division				
Houston	39	20	.661	—
Texas	29	27	.518	8½
Dodgers	29	27	.518	8½
Los Angeles	26	30	.483	10%
Seattle	25	36	.410	15

Giants 8, Orioles 2

	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Panik b	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Troutman, R.F. 1	3	2	1	1	Villar ss 1	0	0	0
Posey dh	2	3	0	1	Smith Jr. 1	0	0	0
Sandoval 1b	4	0	0	0	E.Schroff f-t 1	0	0	0
Dugger cf	0	0	0	0	Lagares pr-f 1	0	0	0
McCann 1b	0	0	0	0	Jones 1	0	0	0
Longoria 3b	3	0	0	0	T.Frazier 1	3	1	1
Alberto 2b	1	0	0	0	I.Vargas b 2	4	2	0
Piller cf	4	2	2	0	Gomez cf 1	1	0	0
Totals	38	8	2	0	G.Hiland 1	0	0	0
San Francisco	201	40	32	6	Nido c 1	0	0	0
Baltimore	000	110	000	2	Bashlor p 1	0	0	0
DP—Trevor	1	0	0	0	deGrom p 3	0	0	0
Longoria, C.	1	0	0	0	Familia p 1	0	0	0
Belt, J. (2nd), Pilar, 2.	10.	HR—Posey (3).	R.Nunez (15).	SF—Yastrzemski (1), Longoria (1).	Greinke p 1	0	0	0
Wells (1).	1	0	0	0	W.Bamboo 1	0	0	0
Total:	38	8	2	0	Castro ph-f 1	1	1	0
Giants	32	6	2	0	Boston	36	11	5
Orioles	6	2	0	0	Totals	36	11	5
Totals:	38	8	2	0	New York	010	200	000
Baltimore	000	110	000	2	New York	030	020	005
DP—Trevor	1	0	0	0	New York	028	000	10.
Longoria, C.	1	0	0	0	Bogerts (17), HR—Bogerts (11), G Sanchez (18).	0	0	0
Belt, J. (2nd), Pilar, 2.	10.	HR—Posey (3).	R.Nunez (15).	SF—Yastrzemski (1), Longoria (1).	Boston	0	0	0
Wells (1).	1	0	0	0	Boston	0	0	0
Total:	38	8	2	0	Boston	0	0	0
Giants	32	6	2	0	Boston	0	0	0
Orioles	6	2	0	0	Boston	0	0	0
Totals:	38	8	2	0	Boston	0	0	0

National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	33	25	.562	—
Atlanta	30	28	.534	2
New York	29	30	.483	5
Washington	25	33	.431	8
Milwaukee	20	39	.333	11
Central Division				
Milwaukee	36	26	.559	—
St. Louis	29	28	.509	3
Philadelphia	25	31	.466	5½
Arizona	25	34	.404	9
West Division				
Kansas City	40	19	.678	—
Colorado	30	26	.526	9
San Diego	30	28	.517	9
Arizona	25	34	.422	11
San Francisco	24	34	.404	10

Saturday's games

	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
N.Lopez b	2	0	0	0	Chodzik 1	5	1	2
McGraw 1	1	0	0	0	Mondesi 1	0	0	0
Adams 1	0	0	0	0	Mazara 1	0	0	0
Orton 1	0	0	0	0	Pence 1	0	0	0
Baltimore	1	0	0	0	Smith Jr. 1	0	0	0
Herr 1l	4	6	7	3	4	1	1	0
Castro 1	3	1	0	1	Lucas 1	0	0	0
Hess pitched to 4 batters in the 5th	1	0	0	0	Wells (4) 1	2	4	2
W.P.—Anderson, T. 2-48, (5), (45, 57).					DeRita 1	0	0	0
Rangers 6, Royals 2					Francesco 1	0	0	0
Kansas City	1	0	0	0	Orton 1	0	0	0
Toronto					Castro 1	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 2	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 3	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 4	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 5	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 6	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 7	0	0	0
Chicago					Orton 8	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 9	0	0	0
Los Angeles					Orton 10	0	0	0
Atlanta					Orton 11	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 12	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 13	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 14	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 15	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 16	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 17	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 18	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 19	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 20	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 21	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 22	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 23	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 24	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 25	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 26	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 27	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 28	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 29	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 30	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 31	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 32	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 33	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 34	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 35	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 36	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 37	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 38	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 39	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 40	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 41	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 42	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 43	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 44	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 45	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 46	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 47	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 48	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 49	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 50	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 51	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 52	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 53	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 54	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 55	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 56	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 57	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 58	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 59	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 60	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 61	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 62	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 63	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 64	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 65	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 66	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 67	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 68	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 69	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 70	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 71	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 72	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 73	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 74	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 75	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 76	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 77	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 78	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 79	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 80	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 81	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 82	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 83	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 84	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 85	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 86	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 87	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 88	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 89	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 90	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 91	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 92	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 93	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 94	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 95	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 96	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 97	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 98	0	0	0
Minnesota					Orton 99	0	0	0
Cleveland					Orton 100	0	0	0
St. Louis					Orton 101	0	0	0
Philadelphia					Orton 102	0	0	0
Arizona					Orton 103	0	0	0
Seattle					Orton 104	0	0	0
Colorado					Orton 105	0	0	0
Texas					Orton 106	0	0	

MLB

Roundup

Sanchez blasts Yankees past Red Sox

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gary Sanchez hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the fifth inning, Aroldis Chapman escaped trouble in the ninth and the New York Yankees bullpen held tight again to beat the Boston Red Sox 5-3 Saturday night.

After starter Domingo German was chased early, six Yankee relievers combined for 5 1/3 scoreless innings to lock down another victory over the rival Red Sox — New York is 4-0 to start the season series, a first since 2012.

Chapman walked Mookie Betts and allowed a single to Andrew Benintendi leading off the ninth, but J.D. Martinez hit a double-play grounder and Rafael Devers rolled the last out to first.

Chapman got his 17th save in 18 tries, closing out a game where Chad Green (1-2) and Adam Ottavino stranded runners with timely strikeouts.

Twins 6, Rays 2: Marwin Gonzalez and Byron Buxton homered and drove in two runs each as Minnesota won at Tampa Bay.

The Twins, who lead the majors with 108 homers, failed to go deep while splitting the first two games of the series at Tropicana Field.

Brewers 12, Pirates 10 (13): Orlando Arcia hit his second homer of the game, a two-run drive in the ninth that sent Milwaukee to a win at Pittsburgh.

Both teams blew late leads before Arcia connected with two outs off Alex McRae (0-1) for his first multi-homer game in the majors. Earlier, Arcia hit a two-run homer in the second.

Indians 5, White Sox 2: Carlos Santana and Leonys Martin homered and visiting Cleveland took advantage of a blunder on the bases to end Chicago's five-game streak. The Indians climbed back to .500 and prevented the White



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

New York Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez, right, is hugged by Cameron Maybin after hitting a two-run home run off Boston Red Sox pitcher Rick Porcello during Yankees' 5-3 win Saturday in New York.

Sox from reaching the break-even mark for the first time since April 5.

Rangers 6, Royals 2: Joey Gallo hit a tie-breaking home run for the second straight game before leaving in the fifth inning due to injury as host Texas beat Kansas City. Gallo was removed because of tightness in his left oblique while batting. He initially felt the injury while in the outfield and then again on a check swing during a plate appearance. He had an MRI and passed some strength tests after the game.

Giants 8, Orioles 2: Brandon Belt drove in four runs, Buster Posey homered and San Francisco used a rare offensive outburst to breeze to a win at Baltimore.

The Giants built a 7-1 lead in the fifth inning and cruised to only their second win in 10 games.

Marlins 9, Padres 3: Harold Ramirez's two-run double highlighted host Miami's five-run fourth inning, Freddie Freeman and Austin Riley each hit a two-run homer, and host Atlanta beat Detroit to snap a three-game skid.

Nationals 5, Reds 2: Gerardo Parra hit a three-run homer that

ended Tanner Roark's streak of keeping the ball in the park and Matt Adams added a solo shot, leading Washington to a win at Cincinnati.

The Nationals have won nine of their last 10 at Great American Ball Park. Overall, Washington is 17-5 against the Reds since 2016.

Braves 10, Tigers 5: Mike Soroka won his sixth straight decision, Freddie Freeman and Austin Riley each hit a two-run homer, and host Atlanta beat Detroit to snap a three-game skid.

Soroka 6-1: Soroka (6-1) scuffled a bit, al-

Going, going, gone: MLB set homer record in May

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major league batters set a record in May for most home runs in any month.

Batters hit 1,135 home runs in May, topping the previous mark of 1,119 in August 2017, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Toronto rookie Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit No. 1,120 for the month on Friday night.

Four of the top five home run months have been in the last three years. June 2017 is third at 1,101, followed by May 2000 (1,069) and May 2017 (1,060).

Milwaukee's Christian Yelich led the big leagues with 21 homers through the end of May, followed by the Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger with 20 and New York Mets rookie Pete Alonso with 19. Yelich hit another homer Saturday.

Through Friday, batters have hit 2,279 home runs this season, a record average of 1.34 per team per game.



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Christian Yelich leads the majors with 22 homers, including 7 in May.

At that pace, they would finish with 6,508, shattering the mark of 6,105 set two years ago — which topped the Rockies Era high of 5,693 in 2000. Home runs dipped to 5,835 last season.

Last year, there were 1,889 home runs through May.

Hits topped strikeouts in May — 7,178 to 7,137 — but strikeouts are ahead 14,885 to 14,397 for the season, according to Elias.

There were more strikeouts than hits for the first time last year, when the margin through May was 14,314 to 14,031.

The major league batting average was .249 through May. That is up one percentage point from last year's average, the lowest since 1972 — the year before the American League started using the designated hitter.

The Minnesota Twins lead the majors with 108 homers through Saturday, followed by the Seattle Mariners with 103.

lowing season highs of three runs and seven hits and striking out five in 6 1/3 innings.

Angels 6, Mariners 3: Cole Calahan and Mike Trout homered late, Andrew Heaney struck out 10 and Los Angeles overcame two home runs by Edwin Encarnacion to win at Seattle.

Rockies 4, Blue Jays 2: Jon Gray struck out seven in a solid seven-inning outing, Nolan Arenado singled to extend his hitting streak to 12 games and Daniel Murphy drove in two runs as host Colorado beat Toronto.

David Dahl had three hits as the Rockies won their seventh straight and improve to 8-1 on their homestead. Scott Oberg got the final out for his second save.

Dodgers 4, Phillies 3: Will Smith hit a towering, tiebreaking home run in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving host Los Angeles a comeback victory over Philadelphia in a matchup of division leaders and the two best teams in the National League.

With one out, Smith smashed his first career homer into the left field pavilion off Hector Neris (1-2).

Astros 5, Athletics 1: Justin Verlander struck out eight over eight innings and moved into a share of the major league lead with his ninth win, pitching Houston to a win at Oakland.

Cardinals 7, Cubs 4: Dexter Fowler and Harrison Bader hit back-to-back homers in the eighth inning, and host St. Louis outlasted Chicago in a game that ended early Sunday after a rain delay of more than three hours.

Mets 5, Arizona 4: Carlos Gomez snapped a tie with a pinch-hit double during New York's bizarre two-run eighth inning, sending the Mets to win at Arizona.

By the numbers

1,135

The number of homers in the major leagues in May.

Batters have hit 2,279 homers this season, a record average of 1.34 per team, per game.

1,119

The previous record for homers in a month, set in August of 2017.

MLB/BRIEFS



LYNN SLADKY/AP

Fans watch a baseball game between the Miami Marlins and San Francisco Giants on Thursday in Miami. Major League Baseball's average attendance of 26,854 is 1.4% below the 27,242 average through the similar point last season, which was less than 30,000 for the first time since 2003.

Commentary

Baseball's numbers crunch

Average attendance is way down from 2007's peak

BY TIM DAHLBERG

Associated Press

The official culprit last season was the weather, which Major League Baseball cited as a big reason for a 4% slide in attendance over the previous year. This season? Well, attendance is down once again — only this time there are new excuses.

Commissioner Rob Manfred blames increased competition for the entertainment dollar, which he says has led to a decline in season ticket sales in some markets. The players' union, meanwhile, says fans simply won't come out to watch bad teams that aren't trying hard enough to get better.

Take your pick, but here's a third possibility: Baseball is becoming hard to watch, and fans are registering their displeasure by staying home in increasing numbers.

But first, let's recap MLB's increasingly trouble-some turnstile figures.

Attendance at major league ballparks peaked at an average of 32,785 a game in 2007, not coincidentally at the tail end of baseball's steroid era. It stood at 26,854 through midweek this season, a drop of nearly 6,000 fans a game in 12 years.

More worrying, perhaps, is that average attendance is down some 3,500 a game since the 2015 season, not coincidentally a time when advanced analytics began changing the way the game is played.

Yes, that includes the patric turnouts in Miami and Tampa Bay, where on typical nights there are less — in some cases much less — than 10,000 fans in the ballpark. Baseball has become a tough sell in Florida, as anyone who tunes into a game can readily see.

But it goes further than that, even in markets that traditionally have supported their teams over the years.

The Giants sold out every game in San Francisco for nearly seven years running, before the streak of 530 straight was broken in July 2017. It's true the Giants are a shell of the team they were in winning three world championships, but they're down to 32,401 fans this year in a ballpark that holds more than 41,000.

In Minnesota the early turnouts were so alarming

for the best team in baseball that the team began selling \$5 tickets just to get people in seats. Still, the Twins are averaging just over 22,000 a game at Target Field, down more than 5,000 from 2015.

And on a beautiful night in Pittsburgh this week, only 13,059 were motivated enough to come to one of the best ballparks in baseball and watch the Pirates play the Milwaukee Brewers.

It could be that baseball is just finding its new level after new ballparks and more (steroid-aided) home runs helped fuel the attendance boom that peaked in 2007, just before the great recession. Indeed, it might be unrealistic to expect that baseball would average 2.5 million fans a season again across each of its 30 teams.

Still, 6,585 for an early season game against Oakland in a Baltimore ballpark that once automatically sold out every game? Or, more recently, 8,076 on Thursday night in Tampa Bay for the first place Twins?

One theory is that baseball is losing its true fans, the ones who appreciate the game and how it unfolds over nine innings. They're increasingly frustrated watching a game that features little strategy, lots of time-consuming pitching changes, and more strikeouts than hits.

They wonder what happened to the stolen base, the sacrifice and the hit-and-run. They're baffled when they see teams playing the shift with the bases loaded in the ninth inning of a tie game with a hitter who doesn't even try to beat it to win a game.

They're tired of watching everyone swing for the fences with two strikes, and weary of the game being stopped so umpires can gather with headsets to see whether someone's fingers came off a bag for a nanosecond.

Yes, the casual fans still come for family outings and the experience of a night at the ballpark. Teams like the Cardinals and Dodgers still draw big crowds, and the Phillies with Bryce Harper are packing them in.

But the trend is unmistakably downward, much like World Series television ratings that are near all-time lows.

Baseball has a numbers problem in more ways than one.

Briefly

Liverpool stops Tottenham to win sixth European Cup

Wire reports

MADRID — No tears of pain this time, just redemption for Mohamed Salah.

Only 108 seconds were needed to banish the Champions League final heartbreak of a year ago.

Once Salah dispatched his early penalty against Tottenham, Liverpool was on the path to a sixth European title with a 2-0 victory on Saturday.

And a year after defeat in the final to Real Madrid, Juergen Klopp has his first title after four years as Liverpool manager.

A shoulder injury forced Salah out of the Kiev showpiece last year.

This time it was Tottenham midfielder Moussa Sissoko's arm that gifted Liverpool the early penalty opening — blocking Sadio Mane's shot after 21 seconds — and Salah converted from the spot after a video review check.

"I have sacrificed a lot for my career," Salah said. "To come from a village, to go to Cairo, and to be an Egyptian at this level is unbelievable for me."

Woman accuses Neymar of rape in Paris

A Brazilian police document says an unidentified woman has accused Neymar of raping her in Paris last month. The player's father calls the incident "a setup" against his son.

The document obtained by The Associated Press on Saturday says the incident took place on May 15 at 8:20 p.m. in a hotel.

The woman went to police on Friday in Paris.

Neymar's representatives have not replied to a request for comment, but his father and agent Neymar dos Santos denied any wrongdoing by the player in a television interview.

"This is a tough moment. If we can show the truth quickly it will be a snowball," he said. "We have to show Neymar's WhatsApp messages and the conversations with this lady, we will." Neymar dos Santos told TV Band.

The woman says she and the Brazil star met in France after exchanging Instagram messages.

Newgarden wins 1st of 2 Detroit Grand Prix

DETROIT — Josef Newgarden won the first of two Detroit Grand Prix races, outlasting the competition Saturday on a rain-slicked road course.

The Team Penske driver finished nearly a second in front of Alexander Rossi, who also was the runner-up at the Indianapolis 500, and Takuma Sato. Newgarden, who opened the year with a victory at St. Petersburg, joins Pagenaud as the series' two-time winners this season. Newgarden has won 12 IndyCar races since 2015. Indy 500 champion Simon Pagenaud finished sixth after

starting 13th in the 22-car field on Belle Isle.

In other auto racing news:

- William Byron turned a lap of 173.494 mph on Saturday to win the pole at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pa.. He won his second straight pole in the No. 24 Chevrolet, following up his first-place start last week at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Byron opened the season with a pole in the Daytona 500 but has yet to win a Cup race in 49 career starts.

Kaymer builds 2-shot lead at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio — Martin Kaymer is 18 holes away from ending five years without a victory.

Kaymer was bogey-free Saturday at Muirfield Village for a 6-under 66 at the Memorial golf tournament in Dublin, Ohio, that gave him a two-shot lead over Adam Scott, setting up a final pairing of two major champions and former No. 1 players in the world in the midst of long droughts.

Four shots behind and very much in the mix is Jordan Spieth — a three-time major champion and former No. 1 — and Hideki Matsuyama, both winless since 2017. Joining them was Patrick Cantlay with a skill set that suggests he should have more than his one victory that came in the fall of 2017.

"We can all play good golf, and it's quite nice for tomorrow because no one is really holding back," Kaymer said. "I think you only hold back when you don't know how to react and you play safe, defensive. ... No one is playing like that in that group."

Kaymer was at 15-under 201 in his first appearance at the Memorial on Saturday.

In other golf news:

- Former Duke championship teammates Yu Liu of China and Celine Boutier of France were tied for the lead Saturday after three rounds of the U.S. Women's Open in Charleston, S.C.

Liu had a 5-under 66 to match Boutier at 7 under at the Country Club of Charleston. Boutier shot 69.

The pair of Blue Devils, good friends and starters on the 2014 NCAA championship team, were a stroke in front of Lexi Thompson, Jaye Marie Green and Japan's Mamiko Higa, the surprise leader the first two rounds.

Jets interview Saints' Fontenot for GM spot

The New York Jets have completed their interview with New Orleans Saints executive Terry Fontenot for their general manager job.

The 38-year-old Fontenot is the Saints' director of pro scouting. He has worked with New Orleans for 16 years, including the last six in his current role.

NBA/BOXING

Raptors' Gasol becomes center of attention

Warriors might look to Cousins to slow Toronto's big man

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

TORONTO — Marc Gasol's highest-scoring game since joining the Toronto Raptors came at the perfect time — Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

He scored 20 points, busting out of a slump in a variety of places: at the rim, from midrange, on the foul line, beyond the arc.

All different, yet with one thing in common — Golden State's DeMarcus Cousins wasn't on the floor for any of them.

It's spelled center in the U.S., centre in Canada, and either way that position battle might tell the tale for the remainder of the title matchup.

Cousins logged only eight minutes in his first game since recovering from a serious quadriceps injury, and it would shock nobody if the Warriors called on him for more as the series goes along.

"He did some good things. That was a good first step," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said Saturday when assessing Cousins' performance in Game 1. "So we have to figure out now as a staff, as a team, where does that leave us? Do we increase the minutes? Do we change the role at all? Those



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto Raptors center Marc Gasol shoots over Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA Finals. Gasol's outside shooting cleared up space for Toronto.

are all things we have been discussing."

The answers may be critical.

For as elaborate as certain elements of NBA offenses are, the Raptors operate under a fairly simple pretense — find the open

guy. They did that often in Game 1, with Gasol one of the main reasons why. When he's camped out at the three-point line, Gasol creates space. When the Warriors aimed to take that space away, he found room to maneuver

elsewhere.

"If the rotation happens and they leave somebody else open, my nature is to make the extra pass," Gasol said. "If they stay home, it is my job to knock it down."

When he was struggling to find ways to get any shots to fall in the Eastern Conference finals against Milwaukee, Raptors coach Nick Nurse hinted that lineup changes were coming and the suggestion seemed to be that Gasol would be coming out of the lineup. Turns out, Nurse really had no intention to sit Gasol. He merely had a chat with him, trying to settle him down.

"Doesn't hurt," Gasol said. "I don't know if it helped or not, but it certainly doesn't hurt to have your coach say, 'Hey, it's OK.'"

The thing Nurse was certain of, when it came to Gasol, that the biggest moments were not going to be too big for a veteran of his stature.

"He's not only played in a lot of big NBA games, but he's played on the international stage at the highest level," Nurse said. "I think he has a couple silver medals under his belt or something like that."

And even though it's just one game, the Warriors surely feel some sort of urgency now. Even heading home for Games 3 and 4, a 2-0 hole in the title series would be daunting.

That's why the decision on Cousins' role is one Kerr isn't taking lightly. A misstep now is a big problem, even for Golden State.

"I feel fine," Cousins said. "The adjustments, we'll make those according to what we see fit. We'll take it from there."

Ruiz: Joshua stunned in front of Madison Square Garden crowd

FROM BACK PAGE

round proved decisive.

Ruiz, the first heavyweight of Mexican descent to win a heavyweight title, capped one of boxing's epic upsets to win Joshua's share of the heavyweight championship Saturday night at Madison Square Garden.

"I just feel so good, man," Ruiz said. "This is what I've been dreaming about, this is what I've been working hard for. I can't believe I just made my dreams come true."

Ruiz etched his name in heavyweight lore at 1:27 of the seventh round by TKO to become the surprise champ in a bout that had shades of Douglas' upset over Mike Tyson for the heavyweight title in 1990. Ruiz barely was on anyone's heavyweight radar when he was summoned as a replacement to fight champion Joshua from a packed Garden.

Considered a joke by fans, all Ruiz did was dominate the British champion and used a TKO to turn his life and the heavyweight division upside down. The 270-pound Ruiz knocked down Joshua twice in the third round and did it two more times in the seventh before referee Mike Griffin ended the fight.

He stepped in after fighting

'Talking about the Mexican style? I just proved it.'

Andy Ruiz
Heavyweight champion

on April 20, when he stopped Alexander Dimitrenko. Jarrell Miller's failed drug tests sent the challenger to the sideline and paved the way for Ruiz's unexpected title shot.

Ruiz (33-1, 21 KO's) seized the opportunity and made boxing history to win the WBA/IBF/WBO/IBO championships.

Ruiz raised his arms in celebration and jumped around the ring as his corner quickly mobbed him and a wild celebration kicked off.

"I've got that Mexican blood in me," he said. "'Talking about the Mexican style? I just proved it.'

When ring announcer Michael Buffer announced the name of the judges "should this fight go the distance," fans laughed at the ridiculous possibility as Ruiz was nearly a 30-1 underdog.

Ruiz and Ruiz were both knocked down in an electrifying third round that had the sellout

crowd of 20,201 howling with each heavy hit. Joshua knocked down Ruiz early in the round and the promise of an early finish seemed to be on the horizon.

Ruiz, his tricks a bit too low for his portly frame, came right back and used an overhand right that stunned the champ and sent him to the canvas. Joshua recovered only to get pummeled in the corner, turning his legs to mush. Ruiz knocked him down again in the final seconds of the round as fans in a stunned Garden crowd screamed "Oh my God!" Again, Joshua beat the count and the bell saved the Brit from going a second longer in his weakened state. Had it not been a championship fight, perhaps Griffin would have stopped the bout.

Alas, for Joshua, it went on.

Ruiz, whose father, a native of Mexico, got him into the gym when he was 6 and had his son in bouts a year later, stunned the boxing world. Joshua was the fan favorite and had all the hype for his first fight in the United States.

"If it wasn't for my dad, I wouldn't be here," Ruiz said.

NBA star Kyrie Irving and rapper Meek Mill were among the celebrities in the house expecting Joshua to roll to a win and set up more ambitious, lucrative bouts



Andy Ruiz, right, lands a punch on Anthony Joshua during the seventh round Saturday. Ruiz put the bout with a TKO in the round.

against the likes of Tyson Fury, Deontay Wilder and a few other potential opponents.

"Sorry I let my fans down, sorry I let my supporters down," Joshua said.

Wilder, owner of the WBC crown, decided to give Luis Ortiz a rematch. Ortiz battered Wilder for parts of their fight in early 2018 before running out of gas and getting knocked out.

Wilder tried to steal the headlines this week when he announced his rematch with Fury was set for 2020. Wilder and Fury fought to a split draw in December in Los Angeles, with Wilder retaining his WBC heavyweight title after knocking down his British challenger twice.

Joshua instead heads toward a likely rematch against Ruiz later this year.

FRENCH OPEN



MICHEL EULER/AP

Rafael Nadal defeated Juan Ignacio Londero 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in their fourth-round match Sunday in Paris.

Federer, Nadal cruise

BY JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

PARIS — Roger Federer's return from French Open clay is going so smoothly he still hasn't dropped a set in reaching the quarterfinals.

The 20-time Grand Slam winner eased through with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win Sunday against unseeded Argentine Leonardo Mayer and is one match away from a potential semifinal — and a 39th career match — against defending champion and longtime rival Rafael Nadal.

Nadal won by the same score as Federer on Sunday, but he was at least given a little bit more of a test by another unseeded Argentine, Juan Ignacio Londero.

While Federer did not face a single break point in beating Mayer for the fourth time in four meetings, Nadal dropped his serve once — late in the third set — and saved four other break-point chances in his first-ever match against the quick-hitting Londero.

Serving at 40-30 in the eighth game of the third set, Nadal was given a time violation warning, which he felt was the correct call made in the wrong circumstances because of persistent talking from the crowd as he prepared to serve in that game, and during his previous service game.

"Ok, I agree with you but (they are) still talking," Nadal told the chair umpire, referring to the crowd.

Nadal held with an ace for 5-3, and then broke Londero for the sixth time to clinch victory.

Federer won his only French Open in 2009, the year Nadal lost to big-serving Swede Robin Soderling in the fourth round.

The 37-year-old Federer is now into a record-extending 54th Grand Slam quarterfinal overall, compared to 38 for Nadal, which is fourth all-time. Federer also became the third oldest man to reach the last eight at Roland Garros.

"Of course the hope was to go deep and I'm in the quarters now, so I'm very, very happy at this point," Federer said. "I served super well and Leonardo had trouble returning. I was able to put pressure on him and I'm very happy with my performance."

After dropping his serve to lose the second set, Mayer angrily swiped the ball away and was given a code violation warning for ball abuse.

Federer was looking so clinical and assured that the crowd at a sun-baked Philippe Chatrier groaned in disbelief when he missed an easy-looking forehand volley at the net, early in the third set.

It was the second time Federer has beaten Mayer at a Grand Slam — the other also coming in straight sets, in the first round of the U.S. Open in 2015. That was also the last year Federer had played at Roland Garros, before skipping clay entirely until returning to the surface this year.

Four years ago, Federer lost in the quarterfinals to Swiss countryman Stan Wawrinka in straight sets.

He next faces Wawrinka, who beat Federer in the fourth round at this year's Australian Open.

Wawrinka edged Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6 after 5 hours, 9 minutes to reach the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in two years.

The 24th-seeded Wawrinka saved 22 of 27 break points, including eight of eight in the fifth set, against No. 6 seed Tsitsipas.

Wawrinka won the 2015 French Open for one of his three career major titles and was the runner-up in 2017. But he hadn't been past the fourth round at a Slam since, in part because he missed time after knee surgery.

Earlier Sunday, Petra Martic followed up her win over second-seeded Karolina Pliskova by rallying past Kaja Kanepi 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 on center court to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Scoreboard

Sunday

Paris Men's Singles Fourth Round

Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, def. Stefanos Tsitsipas (6), Greece, 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6.

Juan Ignacio Londero, (3), Switzerland, def. Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Rafael Nadal (2), Spain, def. Juan Ignacio Londero 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's Singles
Fourth Round

Sloane Stephens, United States, def. Karolina Pliskova (19), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.

Johanna Konta (26), Britain, def. Donna Vekic (23), Croatia, 6-2, 6-4.

Caroline Garcia, France, def. Kristina Mladenovic (13), Croatia, def. Kaja Kanepi, Estonia, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Men's Doubles
Final

Rajeev Ram, United States and Joe Salisbury (11), Britain, def. Henfil Kontinen, (2), Finland, and John Peers, (8), Australia, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

Robert Farah, Colombia and Juan Sebastian Cabal, (3), Colombia, def. Frederik Nielsen, Denmark, and Robin Haase (14), Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4.

Women's Doubles
Second Round

Victoria Azarenka, Belarus and Ashleigh Barty (11), Australia, def. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, and Viktoria Kuzmova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

Ludmyla Kichenok, Ukraine and Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, def. Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic, and Hsieh Su-wei (3), Taiwan, 7-5, 6-1.

Men's Doubles
Second Round

Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Mate Pavic (4), Croatia, 5-7, 6-3.

Guido Pella, Argentina, and Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, def. Gregoire Barrere, France and Quentin Halys, France, 6-4, 6-4.

Women's Doubles
Second Round

Victoria Azarenka, Belarus and Ashleigh Barty (11), Australia, def. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, and Viktoria Kuzmova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

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Serena focusing on Wimbledon prep

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Serena Williams hadn't played much all year. Hadn't practiced much, either. She dealt with an injured ankle in January, a viral illness in March, then a bad left knee in March, April and May.

She wasn't sure whether it even made sense to show up for the French Open at all.

So, a reporter wanted to know, given all of that, would the 37-year-old Williams have been satisfied ahead of time if someone had told her she would wind up making it to the third round? "I would have thought they were lying, because I wouldn't expect to have gotten only to the third round," came the reply Saturday, continuing after Williams was beaten 6-2, 7-5 in that round by 20-year-old American Sofia Kenin. "So I would have been like, 'That's not true.'"

Here is the way Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, summed up her mindset: "She doesn't come here to do second round, third round, quarters or semis. She comes to win."

But here's the thing: Williams needs to be closer to her highest level than she was in Paris if she is going to do what she wants to do, which is raise her Grand Slam trophy count. Right now she's at 23, more than anyone in the professional era. In the history of tennis, only Margaret Court has more, with 24, some won against amateur competition.

On Sunday, Williams already was looking ahead, writing on Instagram: "Yesterday was not my day. But it's about getting up time and time again after you fall. Here's to a multitude of tomorrows."

It's not as if Williams can't still summon the elite strokes and strategy necessary to thrive. She demonstrated that by getting to the finals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year, when she returned to the tour following the September 2017 birth of her daughter.

"I'm definitely feeling short on matches, and just getting in the swing of things. I don't really like playing out points when I practice," she said. "I have some time on my hands, so maybe I'll jump in and get a wild card on one of these grass-court events and see what happens."

As usual, all eyes will be on Williams when play starts at the All England Club on July 1.

"I want her to be ready," Mouratoglou said. "Whatever we need to do we will do."

Williams, though, is no longer at the stage of her career, or perhaps an age, where she can get by purely on her considerable will or muscle memory or champion's aura.

Especially when facing gutsy opponents like the 35th-ranked Kenin.

This was Williams' earliest Grand Slam loss since 2014, and her performance was as shaky as can be. She lost eight of the initial 10 games, ended up with twice as many unforced errors as Kenin and often was left shaking her head or muttering to herself or despairing in despair.

Since twisting her ankle along the way to blowing four match points in the Australian Open quarterfinals, Williams had played only four matches in 2019, going 2-2.

She pulled out of Indian Wells because she was sick, then the Miami Open and the Italian Open because of her knee.

"She had such a short period of time to prepare," Mouratoglou said after the loss to Kenin. "All I know is, she was not ready and it was obvious, I think ... She was fighting, but she's not prepared enough to win those matches."

Williams agreed with that assessment.

"I'm just pretty far away, but ... the optimistic part is I haven't been able to be on the court as much as I would have," she said. "That's OK. At least I can start trying to put the time in now."

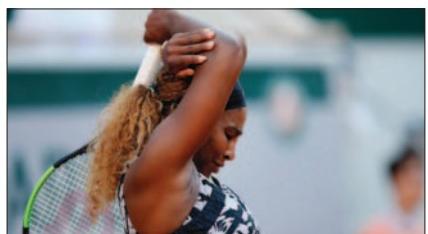
To that end, Williams did not rule out entering a grass-court tuneup tournament ahead of the next Grand Slam tournament on the calendar, Wimbledon.

She hasn't done that since 2011.

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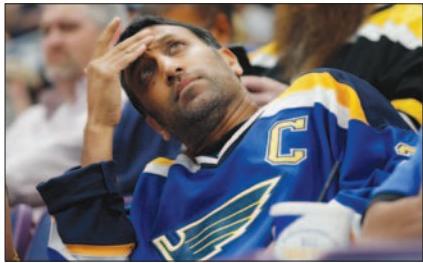
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CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP
Serena Williams reacts after losing her third round French Open match against Sofia Kenin 2-6, 5-7 on Saturday in Paris.

STANLEY CUP FINAL



JEFF ROBBERSON/AP

A Blues fan looks at the scoreboard during the first period of Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Final against the Bruins on Saturday.

Party short-lived for St. Louis fans

By JOE HARRIS
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis was ready to celebrate its first Stanley Cup Final game on home ice in 49 years. The Blues didn't cooperate.

The Blues were the worst team in the NHL for the first part of the season and they looked very much like that team Saturday night in a 7-2 loss that left them trailing the Boston Bruins 2-1 in the Stanley Cup Final.

A boisterous crowd that included actors and St. Louis natives Jon Hamm and Jenna Fischer and a number of NFL players were on hand to cheer on the Blues, enjoying some limelight in a city more familiar with celebrating baseball's storied Cardinals or not all that long ago, the now-departed Rams from the NFL.

The Blues started the Bruins 6-0 in the first six minutes and it was all Boston. The Bruins scored four straight goals, including three in the opening period, and were well on their way to a rout. It is an other disappointing performance on home ice for St. Louis, which fell to 5-6 this postseason as the host while boasting an 8-3 road record.

"I think they (the fans) deserved a better game," Blues center Ryan O'Reilly said. "It's disappointing and not what we wanted. But I think they've been patient all year for us and they'll be with us the next game."

Ryan O'Reilly
Blues center

Colton Parayko scored a power-play goal at 5:24 of the third, snapping an 0-for-8 with the man advantage for the Blues in the series. But it was far too little, too late as Boston scored twice in the final two minutes to complete the blowout.

The Blues have come back from adversity before, starting with climbing out of the league cellar on Jan. 3 and overcoming a loss in Game 3 in the Western Conference final to San Jose on an uncalled illegal hand pass that led directly to an overtime goal. They'll have to do again.

"I think we're confident we will tie the series up," O'Reilly said. "That's our mindset. We still have to talk about a few things, make the adjustments. But we're a good team in here. It was a bad game by us. We didn't do what we wanted, but we're confident we can turn this thing around."

"We've got to stay out of the box even more," said Blues left winger David Perron, who took

the penalty that led to the goal. "The Bruins did a good job and we can't give them life that way. They have a good power play, we knew that, and they capitalized tonight."

Charlie Coyle made it 2-0 late in the first, but the back-breaker was Sean Kuraly's goal at 19:50. The Blues challenged the call and though a replay appeared to show Joakim Nordstrom's skate entering the zone ahead of the puck, the goal stood and the Bruins got a power play, which they converted 4-for-4 — on four shots.

"It's about time we get going," said Pastrnak, who scored his first goal in the final. "I still think we haven't played our best. But we are up 2-1 and we need to meet tomorrow, look at the video and get even better. That's our focus in this group, and we've got a lot of good players, so we know we can even elevate more."

Game 4 is Monday night in St. Louis.

Boston chased Blues goaltender Jordan Binnington, silenced actor and Blues super fan Jon Hamm and a raucous crowd that was fired up for the first Cup Final game in St. Louis in 49 years.

The Bruins survived an initial onslaught and then simply took it to the home team.

"We've been through so much together this year that we just rely on one another in uncomfortable situations," said Marchand, who assisted on Krug's goal. "When we get through it, we get through it together."

Bruins blast Blues

Stars finally shine, giving Boston 2-1 series lead

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — David Pastrnak flashed a wry smile, brimming with confidence.

No even-strength points through the first two games of the Stanley Cup Final for the first line put plenty of pressure on Boston's best players to produce. Pastrnak shrugged it off, saying on scale of 1 to 10, they felt the pressure level was something around a 2.

Then they got on the ice and delivered.

The stars led Boston to a 7-2 rout of the St. Louis Blues on Saturday night to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Defenseman Torey Krug scored a goal and had three assists, top-line center Patrice Bergeron had a goal and two assists, Pastrnak and Brad Marchand got on the scoresheet and the top power-play unit was a perfect 4-for-4 — on four shots.

"It's about time we get going," said Pastrnak, who scored his first goal in the final. "I still think we haven't played our best. But we are up 2-1 and we need to meet tomorrow, look at the video and get even better. That's our focus in this group, and we've got a lot of good players, so we know we can even elevate more."

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"We've been through so much together this year that we just rely on one another in uncomfortable situations," said Marchand, who assisted on Krug's goal. "When we get through it, we get through it together."

Nothing was more important to

get the Bruins through this than Marchand, Bergeron and Pastrnak getting on track. The line combined for five points in a decidedly better effort at 5-on-5 and on the power play.

"We spent less time in our zone," Bergeron said moments after the win. "When we do that we have more energy on offense."

Tuukka Rask was solid as usual in goal with 27 saves, and the Bruins continued to get contributions all over their lineup. Trade deadline pickup Charlie Coyle continued his hot run with his eighth goal of the playoffs, fourth-liner Sean Kuraly scored his second in three games and Marcus Johansson added goal No. 7 in the final minutes.

"It's fun to see everyone contribute," Johansson said. "I don't think anyone cares who scores or what, but it's fun to see everyone contribute."

The Bruins are two victories away from their first Stanley Cup since 2011 and Boston's third in a row in the four major North American professional sports.

The Blues came out flat and continued a troubling trend of parading to the penalty box. After being the least penalized team through the first three rounds, the Blues took seven more minors Saturday to give them 17 in the final.

"We do have to limit the penalties for sure," Blues coach Craig Berube said. "We know they have a dangerous power play and we've been flirting with danger here the whole series and burnt us tonight."

Staying disciplined was Berube's focus given the charged atmosphere that descended on all the hype. His players didn't practice with the predators, and Berube's staff even got a penalty for successfully challenging Kuraly's goal for offside with 78 seconds left in the first period. Berube believed it was a 50/50 call and took a chance that cost his team when

Pastrnak scored on the ensuing power play.

Just about everything went wrong for the Blues, who were forced to put backup Jake Allen into the game. He gave up one goal on four shots.

Binnington allowed five goals on 19 shots before getting the hook for the first time in his young NHL career but will be back in net for Game 4.

"I've got to be better," Binnington said. "I got to do a better job giving my team a chance to win. They scored three goals in the first. That's never good. They're a good hockey team. We have to get back to our game."

Scoreboard

Stanley Cup Final

(Best-of-seven; x=1 if necessary)

Game 3, Sunday, June 2, 2019

Monday: Boston 4, St. Louis 2

Wednesday: St. Louis 3, Boston 2, OT

Thursday: Boston 7, St. Louis 5, OT

Friday: Boston 3, St. Louis 2, OT

Saturday: Boston 4, St. Louis 2, OT

Sunday: Boston 2, St. Louis 1, OT

Monday: Boston 4, St. Louis 2, OT

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SPORTS



Bruins break through

Boston's best lead way in Game 3
rout of Blues » **Stanley Cup Final, Page 47**

DREAMS COME TRUE

Ruiz upsets Joshua to win heavyweight title

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Andy Ruiz had six weeks to prepare for the most important fight of his life. He'll have a lifetime to celebrate one of boxing's biggest upset heavyweight wins.

A massive underdog on the order of Buster Douglas, Ruiz knocked down British champion Anthony Joshua four times — four! — and the final two in the seventh

SEE RUIZ ON PAGE 45



Challenger Andy Ruiz knocks down Anthony Joshua during the third round of Saturday's heavyweight title fight in New York. Ruiz won in the seventh round.

FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Average attendance continues to decline » **MLB, Page 44**



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